Irish Independent w

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Cash crisis for Fair Deal as nursing home demand soars

Ciaran Moran and **Margaret Donnelly**

CONCERN the mounting over rising cost of funding the Fair

Deal for nursing home care, as demand for the scheme soars. State spending on the scheme is expected to hit €1bn

it on a "week-by-week basis". Over 23,200 people are availing of the Fair Deal, which is above expectations, and its this year - and the HSE has budget was increased by acknowledged it is monitoring €24.3m to €985.8m this year.

If Fair Deal exceeds its allocated budget, it is expected the Minister for Older People Jim Daly will be forced to seek emergency extra funding from the Department of Health.

Mr Daly said demand for the scheme was "outside of expectations in the year so far" and he has requested more data.

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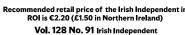














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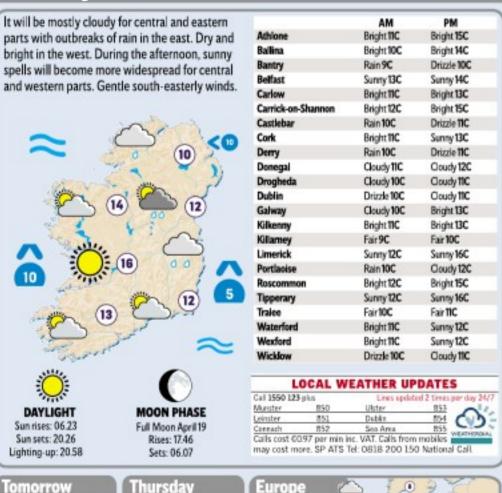
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Today's weather





Delaney digs in as FAI waits on investigation before final call over his future

Statement leaves questions unanswered as Cody and Murray resign from the board

Daniel McDonnell

SOCCER CORRESPONDENT

ISOLATED John Delaney must wait until the conclusion of an investigation before his future with the FAI is decided.

The 51-year-old is clinging onto his role in the FAI after lengthy talks with the board.

While lawyers on both sides exchanged views, the meeting was followed by an FAI statement which left many questions unanswered.

Two of Mr Delaney's closest allies, honorary secretary Michael Cody and honorary treasurer Eddie Murray, have voluntarily resigned.

Mr Cody was the only remaining board member who was aware of Mr Delaney's €100.000 loan to the association in 2017, while Mr Murray admitted he felt he should have known about it.

They were elected members of the board, whereas Mr Delaney's position is slightly different as an FAI employee.

He recently took on the new role of executive vice president



'Stepping aside': John Delaney leaving the Carlton Hotel yesterday. Left: FAI vice president Noel Fitzroy leaves the meeting. PHOTOS: STEVE **HUMPHREYS**

- the brief that he has stepped aside from.

Mr Delaney earns around €120,000 a year in that post, a cut from his €360,000 a year CEO salary. The FAI refused to clarify whether Mr Delaney will continue to be paid while he has stepped aside.

The FAI statement said that Mr Delaney had "offered to voluntarily step aside from carrying out his role as executive vice-president with immediate effect pending the completion of an independent investigation by the association into issues of concern to

the board".

But there is mounting political pressure, with several TDs clamouring to call for Mr Delaney to resign.

Fine Gael TD Noel Rock said: "It's incredible that the treasurer has the good grace to resign, yet the executive vic- president - in the aftermath of the loan, having his rent paid, and the €40,000 in credit card transactions in six months – [will] only step aside temporarily. Will the FAI still be paying his salary while he has stepped aside temporarily? Who decides whether the vol-

Association had used up all funding when €100,000 loan was received

Cormac McQuinn

THE Football Association of Ireland (FAI) had used all available funding from its various bank accounts at the time former CEO John Delaney provided it with a €100,000 loan.

The information comes in correspondence from the association to the Oireachtas Sport Committee. The letter, from interim CEO Rea Walshe, addresses a number of queries raised by TDs and senators at the committee's meeting with FAI representatives last week.

Mr Delaney gave an account of the circumstances of the €100,000 loan he gave the FAI in 2017 when he appeared before the committee last Wednesday. He told committee members he was advised at

an internal FAI finance meeting on April 25, 2017, that if all cheques and FAI bank transfers issued at that time were presented for payment, the FAI would have exceeded its €1.5m bank overdraft. The committee was told that the association had 24 bank accounts.

The FAI was asked at the committee why other bank accounts were not used to cover outgoing costs at the time. The letter from Ms Walsh says that "at the time the association was provided with the €100,000 loan, it had utilised all available funding across its bank accounts".

Sport Ireland said yesterday it is to consider the possibility of a "full audit" of the FAI as part of the conditions for restoring State funding.

Sport Ireland officials are to appear before the Oireachtas Sport Committee tomorrow and are to tell of their disappointment at the FAI's refusal to answer TDs' questions at last week's committee meeting.

A statement sent to the committee ahead of the meeting outlines steps the FAI is going to have to take if funding is to be restored.

At the meeting Mr Delaney gave an account of the circumstances of the €100,000 loan but refused to answer questions on it, the FAI's finances or his time as CEO, citing legal advice.

The Oireachtas Sport Committee is also due to hear from Sports Minister Shane Ross tomorrow.







Questions that need answers

N

Here are some key questions that remain unanswered. 1. Is John Delaney still on full pay from his reported €120,000 salary as executive vice president? 2. Seeing as he has "stepped

aside" from his FAI role, is Mr Delaney still able to fulfil his duties on the Uefa Executive Committee, and has Uefa contacted the FAI board to seek clarity on this?

3. During his suspension from Uefa over a controversial payment from Sepp Blatter, Michel Platini was able to attend matches at Euro 2016 but only in a private role and, Uefa said, "providing he does not do so in any official function".

Will Mr Delaney attend, or have any official role, in Ireland's hosting of the U17 European Championships next month? If the investigations are still ongoing, will he attend, or play a role for the FAI, in events like June's Euro 2020 qualifiers?

4. If Michael Cody and Eddie Murray both "voluntarily resigned from the board", were other resignations offered, or sought?

5. What is the time frame for the investigations and has a time limit been set?

Comment

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O'Doherty

untary stepping aside ends?"

Independent TD Catherine Murphy said that the FAI's latest statement does "nothing" to restore trust.

"This is not the statement that people had expected. What we're seeing is the FAI doing the absolute minimum, which is not acceptable," she said. "If anyone is asking if John Delaney's offer to resign is going to rebuild trust and start a new dawn for Irish football, my answer would be no."

Sinn Féin TD Imelda Munster added that the offer to step aside by Mr Delaney was

not good enough - and that he of meetings. and the board should go.

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar cast doubt on whether the Government would be providing grants for some of the Euro 2020 games that are to be held in Dublin next year.

Meanwhile, it is understood that the FAI's position heading into yesterday's talks was strongly influenced by legal advice from A&L Goodbody.

The FAI released its statement after its remaining board members had left the Boeing Suite at the Carlton Dublin land, sponsors, politicians and

Mr Delaney left the hotel on his own shortly before 4.45pm. President Donal Conway departed through a side exit in an attempt to avoid the media scrum in the lobby.

It has already been established that global auditors Mazars and professional services firm Grant Thornton are looking into affairs in Abbotstown amid the fallout from Mr Delaney's €100,000 loan to the association.

Pressure from Sport Ire-Airport Hotel following a day engagement with the Office

of the Director of Corporate Enforcement are all factors the FAI must deal with next.

An FAI sub-committee headed up by Mr Conway is now to the forefront of its decision-making process. It says that group has been mandated to "press ahead with their work as a matter of urgency".

"The board acknowledges all concerns raised by stakeholders and supporters and is working to ensure that all Government funding is restored to Irish football at the earliest opportunity," concluded the statement.

Daniel McDonnell

COMMENT

No closure, but this could be the start of a long goodbye

ROM the outside, there was a demand for closure which was not satisfied. But this would appear to be the start of the long FAI goodbye for John

The embattled ex-CEO of the association set out his stall by bringing his own legal adviser to the Dáil last Wednesday. And he was fully entitled to do so.

But it was evidence of a line of demarcation on the FAI side.

And in the intervening period, the Abbotstown authorities have also been taking on board the advice of their own legal representatives.

Mr Delaney left the Carlton Dublin Airport hotel on his own yesterday. It was a contrast from the team photo shot

that we had at the Oireachtas. We soon learned that two of his closest allies had resigned their positions.

Mr Delaney had suggested to friends over the weekend that his time was up and, when his allies went public with that, it did cause some disquiet in FAI ranks.

Strong voices on the board viewed this as the executive vice-president setting the tone for his own departure. He was apparently confident that his place at Uefa's top table was secure.

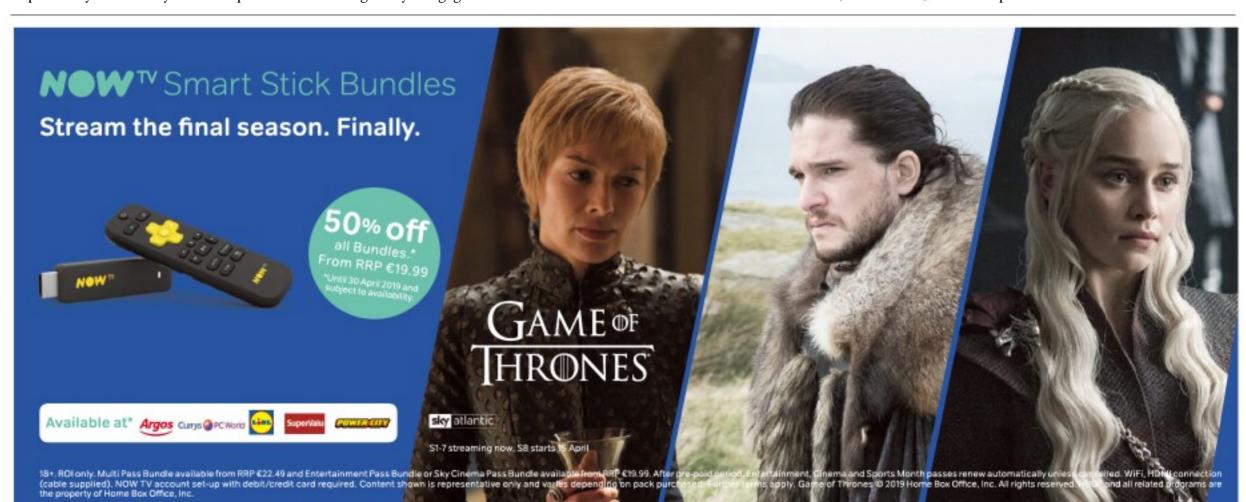
The ball was knocked back into the FAI's court. Its response was influenced by the advice it received.

A quick resolution would have resulted in Delaney departing the association with many questions unanswered.

New information about credit card use and questions around the circumstances behind the €100,000 loan still linger.

Clarity will be sought while he formally remains an FAI employee - although Abbotstown is refusing to confirm if he will still be paid or carry out any active duties during this

From the outside, the optics aren't great. We will have to wait and see what that process



News | Notre-Dame inferno

Heart of Paris burns – iconic Notre-Dame is gutted by blaze

Much-loved, world-famous 13th-century cathedral is devastated by fire as shocked Parisians look on

Henry Samuel

THE heart of Paris was torn asunder last night as a fire ripped through Notre-Dame cathedral and gutted Europe's most loved historic monu-

Bystanders from around the world cried out as the 13th-century Gothic masterpiece's beloved spire - one of the highest points of the capital - came crashing to the ground in flames. Tears were shed as burning ash fell over the Ile de la Cité, the original island that housed the earliest Parisian settlement.

Crowds of stunned Parisians could do little but offer prayers from the banks of the Seine, singing 'Je vous salue, Marie', the French equivalent of 'Hail Mary', as the flames raged higher.

Victor Hugo helped save the cathedral almost two centuries ago by immortalising the edifice in his novel 'The Hunchback of Notre-Dame'.

Last night, the French deputy interior minister said saving it was "not certain".

Some 400 firemen appeared powerless to prevent the blaze spreading after it broke out at 6.50pm local time.

Despite reaching the scene within 10 minutes, their hoses could not reach the highest parts of the cathedral from

30m-high ladders that were dwarfed by a tower three times that size.

Last night, Jean-Claude Gallet, the fire chief, said they were not sure they would be able to stop the fire from spreading, after it engulfed the roof and spire, and one of its towers.

One Parisian bystander, Fred, said: "People are just in a state of total shock. It's almost like a cultural September 11." Nobody was hurt in the blaze.



President Macron: cancelled a TV address to nation

In a tragic twist, it appears the blaze began on scaffolding near the top of the building as major renovation works, intended to save the building from collapse, got under way. Last week, footage showed workers removing 16 copper statues from the spire.

Christine Moreau, a Parisian, choked back tears as she said: "It's tragic. Notre-Dame is part of the heart of Paris and part more have been done to put out the blaze?"

"This is really sad - the saddest thing I've ever stood and watched in my life," said Sam Ogden, a British tourist. "It looked tiny to begin with, then within an hour it all came down."

Anne Hidalgo, the Paris mayor, said: "No words can described the pain I feel in seeing Notre-Dame ravaged by flames. Tonight, all Parisians and French mourn this emblem of our common history."

She said that Paris, however, would find the force to rebuild the edifice from its motto: "Fluctuat nec mergitur" (Tossed by the waves but does not sink).

"Everything is burning, nothing will remain from the frame," Notre-Dame spokesman Andre Finot said.

The majority of the cathedral's artefacts, including the Crown of Thorns - a relic believed by some to be the crown worn by Christ at the Crucifixion - and the Holy sacraments, were reportedly saved from inside the main building.

But as the flames failed to abate, it appeared that the cathedral's famous stained glass windows had melted.

Emmanuel Macron, the French president, cancelled of our hearts too. Why couldn't a television address to the nation last night and instead , he rushed to the scene with Edouard Philippe, the prime minister, and Christophe Castaner, the interior minister, to see the "terrible fire ravaging Notre-Dame".



City of Lights now needs another Victor Hugo to



Most Gothic of churches: Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris as it looked before renovation work started and a fire took hold.

Jonathan Glancey

EVERY year some 12 million visitors, watched silently by a menagerie of Gothic gargoyles, chimeras and grotesques teem through the portals of Notre-Dame de Paris. Some, of course, come to pray. Most come to take photographs, bathe in the plays of kaleidoscopic light through great rose windows, stare into the high-pointed vaults, listen for bells and, perhaps, sense something of

the mysterious, miraculous and even diabolical.

In the popular imagination, Notre-Dame has long been the most Gothic of churches. And, yet we owe much of its theatricality to Victor Hugo, whose 1831 novel was set in the magnificent cathedral. English speakers know it as 'The Hunchback of Notre-Dame'.

Hugo wrote it to draw attention to the sorry state of the cathedral. Much damaged by passionate zealots of

the French Revolution, when for a spell it had been rededicated to the Cult of Reason and then to the Cult of the Supreme Being, it was also, despite classical intrusions complete with cherubs playing in plaster clouds, notoriously Gothic and, therefore, dark, dismal and out of fashion.

Hugo's novel sparked intense new interest. A competition held in 1844 to renovate the cathedral was won by Jean-Baptiste-Antoine Viollet-le-Duc, a passionate Gothic revivalist. The cathedral was revived with structural repairs, bestiaries of new sculpture and the spire we saw flaming like a Gothic torch yesterday evening. When, after 25 years, the architects' work was complete, Notre-Dame was deeply and movingly Gothic even though much of it was new. For all its venerable vaults, stained glass and flying-buttresses,

Lassus and the young Eugene







C



Destroyed: Flames engulf the roof and spire of the worldfamous Notre-Dame Cathedral in central Paris yesterday evening (left and top); a firefigher battles the blaze in the roof (above); right, the gutted remains of the cathedral. PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



champion its Gothic survivor

the cathedral we know and love is as much a 19th century as a medieval creation.

Spared serious damage in World War II, cleaned and renovated in 1963, from 1991 and again in recent months, Notre-Dame has not been allowed to decline again.

But fire, however caused, has no respect for sentiment and much less for timber beams under high roofs, whether 19th century or medieval.

Sentiment, however, will

see Notre-Dame rise from the flames, not miraculously but by determined effort and through the deep pockets of the state.

The big question for the future is how will the clergy, architects, experts, officials and the French public itself wish to see Notre-Dame restored?

Little more than 80km from the Ile de la Cite, the new restoration of Chartres cathedral, Notre-Dame's contemporary, has prompted both Gothic horror and angelic delight. A sublime whole built mostly between 1194 and 1230, the stones of Chartres matured more subtly than the noblest French wines.

The patina of centuries was painterly and poetic. All those generations of hands and bodies, tapers and candles, incense and dust.

From 2009 the Monuments Historiques decided a wash, brush-up and makeover was needed.

The garish effect of stained glass in brightly painted and gilded new walls, Adrien Goetz has written in 'Le Figaro', is like "watching a film in a theatre where they haven't turned off the lights".

With luck, and prayers, Notre-Dame may escape Chartres' ritzy fate. Or maybe Paris needs a new Victor Hugo to champion the spirit and charred and splintered fabric of this towered, spired and gargoyled Gothic survivor.



Devastated: Faithful pray as they watch Notre-Dame Cathedral destroyed by fire. PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Lowry's evidence of Quirke looking hot and sweaty 'the most devious poison'

Defence claims widow 'a person prepared not to tell truth when it suits her'

Shane Phelan

SOME of Mary Lowry's evidence at the Tipperary murder trial has been described as the "most devious, devious poison" heard by the Central Criminal Court for many years.

Defence counsel Bernard Condon SC made the claim after telling jurors the widow changed her account of seeing murder accused Patrick Quirke on the morning his alleged love rival Bobby Ryan went missing.

Mr Quirke (50), of Breanshamore, Co Tipperary, has pleaded not guilty to the murder of Mr Ryan (52), a part-time DJ known as 'Mr Moonlight', on a date between June 3, 2011, and April 2013.

Mr Ryan stayed the night of June 2, 2011 with his girlfriend Ms Lowry at her home in Fawnagown, Co Tipperary, but left before she got up to take her children to school.

He was missing until his body was found 22 months later in an underground tank on her farm, which was being leased by Mr Quirke.

The court was told Ms Lowry gave a statement to gardaí six days after the disappearance saying she saw Mr Quirke in the farmyard around 8.30am on the morning of the disap-

At the time she said she believed he was doing some work early in the day as he was heading away with his family for the weekend.

The defence barrister said that after the body was found, Ms Lowry "introduced" a new detail into her account, that Mr Quirke was "hot, sweaty and bothered looking" when she saw him that morning.

Mr Condon said that in court, Ms Lowry suggested



Trial: Mary Lowry's (above) evidence was focussed on by the defence in closing speeches vesterday: Bobby Ryan (top right); **Patrick** Quirke (above right) arrives at court with wife Imelda. PHOTOS: DAMIEN EAGERS, MARK **CONDREN**

there was something odd about Mr Quirke being there at that time of the morning.

He said this was an attempt to suggest Mr Quirke, her former lover, was up to no good.

"This was a piece of the most devious, devious poison that has been delivered across the face of the Central Criminal Court for many a year," he said. Yesterday was the second day

of Mr Condon's closing speech in the trial. Much of his address to jurors was focussed on the evidence of Ms Lowry.

The barrister claimed she was manipulative, told lies, put a spin on her evidence and attempted to rewrite history.

Ms Lowry was "a person prepared not to tell the truth when it suits her", the barrister said.

He claimed she was "able to

bald faced sit here and say black is white".

Mr Condon also attacked the prosecution case against his client, saying it was "a forensically barren wasteland".

The prosecution alleges Mr Quirke murdered Mr Ryan so he could rekindle his affair with Ms Lowry.

But Mr Condon told the jury of six men and six women it should not look at the quantity of the evidence, but the quality of it, and that a lot of the inferences they were being asked to draw had nothing to do with the murder.

The defence barrister said there was uncertainty over the events of June 2 and 3, 2011.

"When you have uncertainty over those events, then you have a difficulty," he said.

Mr Condon said it was



Ms Lowry was 'able to bald faced sit here and say black is white', the jury was told

alleged Mr Ryan was murdered some time after leaving the house at 6.30am. He said the windows were open, yet neither Mary Lowry nor her mother-in-law Rita Lowry heard anything.

The trial has heard Mr Ouirke leased Ms Lowry's 60-acre farm and had an affair with Ms Lowry, which she described as "sordid" and "sleazy".

However, she was in a relationship with Mr Ryan when he disappeared in June 2011.

Mr Condon highlighted a number of aspects of Ms Lowry's evidence where he said she was "prepared to revise history".

He said it was suggested Mr Quirke was not a good friend of Ms Lowry's late husband Martin Lowry.

Mr Condon said all of the evidence would not support that suggestion.

He also focussed on her evidence about a night away she and Mr Ryan spent in Bundoran, Co Donegal, just days before his disappearance.

The trial heard she was annoyed when she found Mr Ryan dancing with another woman and that she "gave out" to him for five hours on the journey home.

Mr Condon said that in fact what happened was that they broke up on the journey home. The trial heard they reconciled two day later.

Mr Condon said Ms Lowry subsequently told gardaí Mr Ryan was dancing with a woman in Bundoran he met the night before.

But when she was quizzed in the witness box, she said this was a woman Mr Ryan had known years before and they were just catching up on old

Mr Condon also said Ms Lowry had invented a claim she asked Mr Ryan if it was OK for her to dance with another man on the same weekend away.

Mr Condon said the jury had to be careful about placing undue weight on Ms Lowry's evidence.

He said that while the visit to Bundoran was not of consequence to the case, what was of consequence for the jury was whether it could take her evidence as "gold standard".

In her evidence, Ms Lowry said her relationship with Mr Quirke became a sexual one in January 2008. She claimed he "crossed the line", that she found him "overpowering" and that she was "very vulnerable at the time".

But Mr Condon asked if this was just Ms Lowry talking in hindsight about a relationship she now regrets.

He pointed to evidence given by her brother Eddie Quigley in which he told Mr Quirke: "Mary will make up her own mind and you and me won't change that."

The barrister said this gave a different view of Ms Lowry to the naive and vulnerable person she portrayed herself as.

READER COMPETITION

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'Drag story time' for children cancelled at library following backlash

Rachel Farrell

A STORY time event for children presented by drag performers has been cancelled after receiving a backlash from the public.

Performance group Glitter Hole, a "DIY drag collective", was scheduled to deliver a storytelling event for children aged three to seven at Deansgrange Library, in Dublin.

The event, which said it would provide families with



Glitter Hole has performed the event three times before

'glamorous, positive and unabashedly queer role models", was due to take place as part of a summer series at the library on June 26. However the event was scrutinised on social media, with users calling for a review on the "age appropriateness" of the event.

The drag group, which said it has performed the children's event three times before with an "entirely positive" response, said it was disappointed to hear of the cancellation.

"It is with a heavy heart that I have to announce that our upcoming Drag Story Time event has been cancelled," a spokesperson for Glitter Hole said.

"We were contacted by DLR (Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown) last month and asked to put on one of our drag storytelling performances to celebrate Pride and I wasn't aware that it had been announced by them yet."

The spokesperson said they

were subject to "extremely violent homophobia" on social media as a result, but they were determined to continue presenting the event.

"Over the weekend we have been inundated with extremely violent homophobia from a frighteningly large group of bigots who believe that a few drag queens reading books to children amounts to child abuse.

"The library decided that the event was a safety risk, which

we accepted given the scale and gravity of the vitriol that was being spewed on Twitter."

DLR library service posted a cancellation notice of the event on its website, citing a review of the age criteria as the reason behind the cancellation. However it later clarified the cancellation was due to "significant concern at the high level of degrading, inappropriate comments on social media about the performers and library staff".

IN BRIEF

CRIME

Four arrested over botched feud gun attack

THE suspected gunman and getaway driver in a botched feud murder attack were among four arrested by gardaí in a major operation.

The 23-year-old suspected shooter of Brendan Maguire and a 49-year-old described as an "excellent getaway driver" were arrested in Drogheda.

Two other men aged 23 and 27, who are believed to have had more peripheral roles in the shooting on the afternoon of February 26, were also detained.

Brendan Maguire, who is the older brother of mob boss Owen Maquire, spent a number of weeks being treated in hospital after the attack at 3pm that day in the M1 Retail Park in Drogheda.

The attempted murder is classified as one of the most serious incidents in the deadly Drogheda gang dispute.

Bus Éireann hires 150 extra drivers

BUS Éireann is hiring more than 150 drivers whose wages will rise from €35,348 to €40,924 after four years.

The commercial semi-state company said it has begun a campaign to recruit more drivers to work in Dublin, Cork, Galway and Limerick.

A spokesperson said a driver in year one would earn €677.44 for a 39-hour week.

This rises to €784.29 a week in year four, but drivers can also earn overtime and avail of pension and medical schemes.

Bus Éireann said the new jobs are required for expanded services on a number of routes. "This is an excellent opportunity for people who enjoy working with the public in a busy and ever-growing environment," said chief customer officer Allen Parker.



Would-be buyers sleep in their cars in "Hunger Games' for housing'

Laura Lynott and Ralph Riegel

A SITUATION that saw prospective buyers sleep in their cars while queuing in an attempt to buy a new home has been branded a "'Hunger Games' for housing".

Critics of the scene said it was a worrying throwback to the Celtic Tiger era and questioned why this was the reality for young families in modern Ireland.

More than 100 cars parked overnight in the Cork town of Ballincollig as first-time buyers with young families competed to buy the 27 properties – all of which sold out within an hour.

The buyers were desperate to secure properties at the new Heathfield estate in Ballincollig.

The houses – priced at €325,000 for a three-bed and €375,000 for a four-bed semi – subsequently sold out within 60 minutes.

Two previous phases of the Heathfield scheme also sold

Ciara Kennedy, a Labour Party candidate in the area, said the scenes were astonishing – and were unacceptable.

"It is like a 'Hunger Games' for housing," she said.

Ms Kennedy said that while people were excited at being able to secure their first home, there was also a sense of outrage at the extreme lengths families had to go to just to get a deposit in place.

"It is a throwback to the Celtic Tiger," she warned.

Savills agent Catherine McAuliffe acknowledged she had never seen anything like it before in Co Cork.

Ms McAuliffe, director of residential sales in Cork, said: "We didn't expect the turnout ourselves, certainly not people queuing overnight. "But it's about location – this is Ballincollig, on the edge of city, with access to the ring road around the city, so basically that's access to everywhere quickly.

"All 27 properties sold out in an hour on Saturday. Demand is obviously driven potentially by the fact the Help-to-Buy Scheme is coming to an end.

"We don't have many firsttime buyer houses in Cork city, or close to the city, so I think this was really driven by demand. A lot of people are loan-approved and are just waiting for that type of product to come along, especially in that particular area."

Ms McAuliffe said she felt



Sought-after: Houses in Healthfield, Ballincollig

the houses were a "good price", which was reflected in the high demand they generated.

"You can certainly buy cheaper than that but I think it was the location that has really driven it. A lot of buyers are living locally. The buyers were young families, first-time buyers, probably 70pc were first-time buyers.

"The next release of houses [in this development] will be in the summer this year but the houses selling now won't be ready until next year."

Derry Canty, Fine Gael councillor for Ballincollig, said: "I saw the cars there myself. Buyers wouldn't be on the site [overnight] unless they were able to afford the properties, so it's fair enough.

"Ballincollig is a growing town, we're near Cork city and there's good schools and amenities and great city access."

PUBLIC SERVICE

17,000 staff at 36 hospitals to ballot on strikes over wages

Anne-Marie Walsh

UP to 17,000 staff at 36 hospitals, including health care assistants, chefs, laboratory aides and theatre staff, are set to ballot for strike action.

Siptu has announced that workers in support grades in areas including patient transport, catering, housekeeping, porter services, and security will vote from Monday.

The union is balloting all members in these grades in a dispute over the implementation of a job evaluation scheme that has been stalled. It wants the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to allow members to

move to a higher pay grade. Siptu organiser Paul Bell said staff confidence in the public service pay deal has been severely undermined.

He said tensions have been heightened by a HSE decision to introduce an overtime ban and hiring embargo.

A spokesperson at the department said the oversight body for the pay deal is "best placed" to deal with the issue.

Fears rising Fair Deal costs will further delay key reforms of scheme

Warning that new applications must not be put off

Continued from Page 1

In response to queries from the *Irish Independent*, the HSE last night confirmed that it "is currently experiencing increased demand for the Fair Deal scheme".

It added: "Activity levels are being monitored on a weekly basis and the HSE is in ongoing contact with the Department of Health."

It comes as farmers take to the streets today, saying the lack of fairness in the scheme for them is costing them up to €40,000 a year in nursing home fees.

Alan Kelly TD is greatly concerned about funding Fair Deal and warned over timelines being "pushed out".

"I am concerned at year-todate spending compared to the total allocation and I believe this is causing real issues as [to] how Fair Deal is being administered," said the Labour TD.

Mr Kelly warned that any fresh applications to the Fair Deal scheme must not be delayed in the face of rising costs.

He also questioned whether concern over cashflow was contributing to delay of promised reforms of the scheme that would benefit farmers and small businesses.

Figures from Minister Jim Daly show that the Fair Deal scheme was expected to support an average of 23,042 people in 2019. With this in mind, the budget for 2019 is €985.8m, which is an increase of €24.3m over its 2018

budget.

But he said the latest available HSE performance reports indicated there were already 23,228 people supported in the scheme at the end of February this year.

Mr Daly said: "The HSE have noted that the number of residents in nursing homes whom are supported by the NHSS to be ahead of forecast for the year to date," said the minister.

"The Department of Health is engaging with the HSE and will continue to do so over the next few weeks to fully assess the situation, including a detailed analysis and valida-



identified.

tion of this data and to understand if specific trends can be

Alan Kelly:

Asked if cash

concerns were

"This will help to inform a view on the scheme activity and financial projections for the remainder of 2019."

The Fair Deal scheme offers support for people who require long-term residential care.

Participants contribute to the cost of their care according to their means – while the State pays the balance.

The aim is that nursing home care is accessible and affordable for everyone.

Under the Fair Deal Scheme the State can only claim 22.5pc of the value of the family home, under a three-year cap on the asset.

However, farm families and small businesses owners face 7.5pc of the value of their land being used annually to pay nursing home fees.

There is no cap on this, meaning an entire farm could have to be sold to pay the bills.

Hundreds of farmers are protesting outside the Department of Health in Dublin today over the slow progress introducing the three-year cap on farm assets.

IFA Farm Family and Social Affairs Chair Caroline Farrell said it was now nearly nine months since Cabinet approved the proposal to introduce a three-year cap on farm and small businesses assets, where a family successor commits to continue to farm the asset for a period of six years.

"In the time since Cabinet approved the proposal, it has cost individual farm families an estimated €40,000 in nursing home costs. That is the equivalent of losing four acres of their farm enterprise," she said.

The minister has said that his department is working on the development of draft Heads of Bill while considering a number of complex ancillary policy and operational matters which may need to be addressed in the proposed legislation.

"However, subject to legal advice, I expect to bring the Heads of Bill to Government in May. The changes to the scheme will come into effect in 2019 subject to the legislative process," he said.





'There's

'Tough little girl': Yvonne Shannon with daughter Ruby (4), from Pimlico, Dublin (right). Her mum wanted to share her journey in Crumlin Hospital (above) after her brain tumour diagnosis

Life's work:
Joe Carroll
on his
farm near
Kilcormac,
Co Offaly.
PHOTO: KYRAN
O'BRIEN

Business

Third of

bank staff

concerned

by failure

to act in

customers'

interests

23



'I never thought

Margaret Donnelly

WHEN Joe Carroll's wife was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) a few years ago, the family never thought they might have to sell their farm to pay nursing home bills.

Today he is protesting outside the Department of Health with the Irish Farmers' Association (IFA) to highlight what he says is a huge injustice to farmers in the Fair Deal nursing home scheme.

"I've always paid my bills. More than that, when we had









an ouchy in my head': Little Ruby battles brain tumour

Claire Murphy

YVONNE SHANNON has spoken about how her daughter Ruby was diagnosed with a brain tumour aged just two-anda-half after she told her she had an "ouchy" in her head.

Ms Shannon, from Pimlico. Dublin, has shared her child's cancer treatment iournev at Crumlin Children's Hospital and called for more investment into research.

She said that the first time she realised something was wrong was when Ruby vomited up her bottle of milk one morning in 2017.

"I took her to the GP and we thought it was a viral infection. She wasn't herself

 even her eyes looked dull. Ruby has big brown eyes and I knew they were off," she said.

The little girl was tested for suspected meningitis but the tests came back negative.

"Ruby had started complaining of a pain in her head at this point," Ms Shannon said.

Three days later, she had a seizure at home and they were rushed to Crumlin. The next morning Ruby was still complaining about the pain.

"Ruby would say 'Mammy, there's an ouchy in my head!" she said. "She was taken for a CT scan and that's when they told me the worst news I have ever heard: my little girl had a brain tumour."

I don't care what she

wants to be when she grows up. I just want her to be healthy

happy

On February 14, 2017, Ruby went for surgery in Temple Street Hospital.

Ms Shannon said that she received the "greatest Valentine's gift" when doctors told her they had removed the entire tumour. Even though it was removed, because it was a gradefour tumour she needed to have seven months of chemotherapy. Every scan since then has been clear.

"Ruby is the toughest little girl and I'm so proud of her," she said. "I hope she lives a long and healthy life. I don't care what she wants to be when she grows up. I just want her to be healthy and happy."

Visit www.cmrf.org/donate to donate to the hospital.

I'd face selling my farm to pay for my wife's care'

good years milking cows, I made sure to have some savings. They were to help my other two children, the ones not getting the farm."

Thousands

Now, the Offaly farmer says none of his children will be left with much as he pays thousands of euro every month in nursing home bills for his wife.

Jane was diagnosed with MS in 2013 and Joe tried to look after her at home, but it became too much and four years ago the family made the decision she would be better off in a nursing home.

Now Joe is paying over €20,000 a year in nursing homes fees and says his savings will soon be gone.

"Then we face a sign being put up outside the farm to pay the fees," he said.

Unless legislation is changed soon to allow a three-year cap on farm assets, Joe says there may not be a farm to leave his son as promised.

"I was saving my whole life on the farm and for the family. There was not that much

saving my whole life on the farm

'I was

and

for my

family'

savings and it is just dwindling away and now there may be no farm left either."

After surviving prostate cancer 13 years ago, Joe gave up dairy farming and relies on a drystock income on the 70-acre farm near Kilcormac.

"Finance is terribly stressful but you have to be positive. I couldn't manage without the kindness of others," he said.

"I've always been able to pay. Now I'm dependent on the generosity of others, but that debt is always in the background."



Why I changed my mind over 'Fortnite' as youngsters fight for an adult-free

childhood Mary **McCarthy**

20

First Budget surplus for State since 2007 as 'lost decade' took toll on national purse

David Chance

THE State eked out a Budget surplus of €50m last year, its first since 2007.

The latest financial data shows rising tax revenues offset a 7.5pc surge in the wage bill of Government employees to €22.2bn, or 27pc of total spending.

Data from the Central Statistics Office released yesterday showed how the wage bill for State employees has risen since the 2013-15 period during which they were capped below €19bn. The number of Government employees had risen to 399,700 by the end of the third quarter of last year, from 379,700 at the end of 2015.

Overall the Government recorded a 7pc rise in revenues, much of it from company taxes that outstripped a 6pc hike in spending from 2017 levels, and the tax take rose by €4.7bn from 2017 levels to €60.6bn.

Despite the hefty rise in spending, which rose 6pc last year, it now accounts for just over a quarter of gross domestic product (GDP), down from the more than 40pc peak hit in 2013 in the wake of the financial crisis.

Debt interest service costs have fallen too, despite a rise

in the level of gross debt, and they stood at €14.3m a day, down from €15.8m a day in 2017 as the National Treasury Management Agency refinanced debt at lower interest rates and for longer maturities.

The gross debt level rose to €206.2bn at the end of 2018 from €201.4bn in 2017, although strong economic growth last year cut the debt to GDP ratio to 64.8pc, down from 68.5pc in the previous year.

That still places Ireland above the 60pc level mandated in the European Union's Stability and Growth Pact, but the ratio is moving in the right direction.

The Budget surplus for last year means the State will join 13 other EU countries who ran a budget surplus in 2017.

Analysis from the Department of Finance shows that debt reduction is far more sensitive to economic growth than it would be to a rise in interest rates.

Growth here is expected to be in the region of 4pc this year, depending on the terms on which Britain leaves the European Union.

The immediate risk of a hard Brexit has fallen sharply as the EU has extended talks until October 31.

Patients still in dark about public hospitals charging on the double

Charlie Weston

PERSONAL FINANCE EDITOR

THOUSANDS of people with health insurance are in the dark about attempts by State hospitals to charge them on the double for treatment.

New research shows 44pc of people are unaware they do not need to sign forms allowing public hospitals to charge their insurers for public treatment in State hospitals.

The cost gets passed on to the person's health insurer - even though the patient is treated as a public patient, with no choice of consultant and no access to a private or semi-private room.

Although awareness of the practice has grown, a survey commissioned by Insurance Ireland found that there is still confusion and a lack of knowledge around the attempts to double charge patients.

The issue arises when patients with private health insurance are admitted to public hospitals. They are asked to sign a form waiving their right to treatment as public

patients. Signing the form means the patient's insurer is charged 10 times more than the public rate. Insurers are charged €813 per day when a patient receives private care in a public hospital compared with €80 for public treatment.

Research found that 55pc of health insurance customers are now aware of the practice of being asked to sign a waiver, up from 42pc in 2017.

44pc of people are unaware they do not need to sign forms

However, almost half of those with private health insurance who attended a hospital and signed a waiver form were unaware of what they were signing up to.

A Department of Health spokesperson said: "The HSE has put in place detailed procedures to ensure private patient charges are levied in accordance with the policy and legislative framework."

Pelosi pledges to block Trump from UK trade deal unless the Good Friday accord protected

Kevin Doyle

GROUP POLITICAL EDITOR

ONE of the United States's most influential politicians arrives in Ireland today with a clear promise to help block any US-UK trade deal unless the Good Friday Agreement is protected.

Speaker of the US House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi is to visit the Border region and make a historic address to the Oireachtas during her two-day visit.

Her comments are likely to be closely watched by US President Donald Trump, with whom Ms Pelosi regularly clashes over policy and politics.

Ahead of coming to Ireland, Ms Pelosi and a delegation from Congress held a series of high-level meetings with British politicians, including Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.

Speaking at a London School of Economics event last night, she warned the US will not strike a wide-ranging trade deal with the UK after Brexit unless the threat of a hard Border in Ireland is removed.

"We made it clear to all, if there is any harm to the Good Friday accord, no (trade) treaty," she said.

"I have to say though every single person, including Theresa May who we spoke to on the phone, everyone said don't even worry about that, it is unthinkable that we would even go there."

Mr Trump, a supporter of Brexit, has repeatedly said he is prepared to enter a "largescale" trade agreement with the UK.

During Taoiseach Leo Varadkar's visit to the White House last month, the president was critical of the EU's trading position but said he'd like "to see the whole situation with Brexit work out".

"We can do a very big trade deal with the UK." Separately, he tweeted: "My Administration looks forward to negotiating a large scale Trade Deal with the United Kingdom. The potential is unlimited!"

However, Congress and members of Ms Pelosi's Democratic Party will have a major say in any future trade deals.

In London, she claimed the US missed an opportunity to gain economic leverage over China when it opted to put



Nancy Pelosi: House speaker is to visit the Border region

tariffs on the EU rather than join forces with it.

"I thought one of the biggest opportunities was for the US and the EU to join together - the biggest market in the world, the two combined and use that leverage in negotiations with the Chinese," Ms Pelosi said.

"So I wasn't pleased when the president put tariffs on the EU because you kind of started to weaken that strength vis-a-vis China."

Ms Pelosi will meet with Mr Varadkar, Tánaiste Simon Coveney and President Michael D Higgins during what is being described as a 'fact-finding mission'.

She will be accompanied by several members of the Friends of Ireland caucus, including Congressman Richie Neal.

Tomorrow, Mr Varadkar will host a dinner at Dublin Castle in honour of the delegation.

Speaking ahead of the arrival, the Taoiseach said: "It's an honour to welcome the delegation from the US Congress to Ireland.

"This visit is more evidence of the deep and historic ties between our two countries and is a good opportunity to further deepen US-Ireland bilateral relations.

"We will discuss a range of issues including trade, visas, immigration and Brexit."

Cormac McQuinn

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FEARS over how to justify the

spiralling cost of bringing

high-speed internet to the

most remote parts of the coun-

try have seen the Government

Ministers had been set a

deadline of today by Taoiesach Leo Varadkar for approving

the National Broadband Plan

(NBP) – but the project is not

even on the agenda for the last

Cabinet meeting before the

With just one bidder left for

the valuable tender, officials

are undertaking what sources

described as an "exceptional

evaluation process" to ensure

that the price paid for rolling

out fibre broadband to more

than 500,000 homes and

Easter recess.

stall on a decision yet again.



Delivered: Leo opens post office in

THE Taoiseach opened a new post office in his constituency - as more than 150 face closure across rural Ireland.

Leo Varadkar performed the official ceremony at Castleknock, inside a Lidl premises, yesterday.

It comes as 159 post offices are due to close across the country, with counties

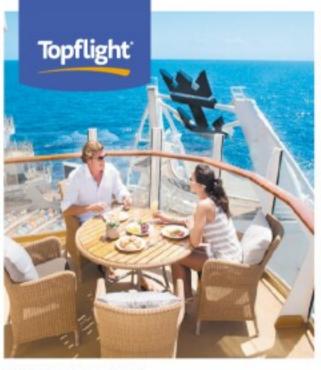
'A betrayal' – rural Ireland left

to wait yet again for broadband

Donegal and Galway among the worst areas affected.

The Taoiseach's opening of the post office in the Dublin West constituency was criticised by opposition TDs.

Marc MacSharry, Fianna Fáil TD Sligo/Leitrim, said: "Photo calls, profile launches, sound bites and the international merry-go-round are the







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businesses is appropriate. The final bill for the taxpayer is set to be many multiples of

the original €500m predicted. It is believed the costs could mount to between €2bn and €3bn.

Government sources said they are concerned that the NBP will be perceived as having runaway costs like the National Children's Hospital. As a result, the assessment of the tender bid is much more "invasive" than normal.

Communications Minister Richard Bruton said that "due diligence" is close to completion, but it's a "significant decision" and "time and space" is

However, the delay has been described as a "betraval" and "farcical" by the Opposition.

needed for it.

The NBP has been beset with delays and difficulties, including two bidders dropping out.

National Broadband Ireland, a consortium led by US businessman David McCourt, is the only remaining bidder.



'A significant decision': Minister for Communications Richard Bruton

Fianna Fáil communications spokesman Timmy Dooley has called on Mr Bruton to clarify when he intends to bring proposals for the NBP to Cabinet.

He said that the minister had indicated last November that a recommendation would be brought "within weeks".

He added: "Fast forward five months and there is still no movement - it is deeply frustrating."

Mr Dooley also pointed to Mr Varadkar's target of Easter and claimed that the fresh delay is "a disgraceful betraval of the people who have been waiting for so long and who depend on this roll-out".

Sinn Féin's Brian Stanley hit out at what he called "the latest delay in an increasingly farcical process".

He added: "The people of rural Ireland have waited long enough and I do not believe that this Fine Gael Government is treating this situation with the appropriate urgency and seriousness."

A spokesperson for Mr Bruton declined to offer any time-line for when he will bring the NBP to Cabinet.

The Department of Communications said that he will "bring a recommendation to Government shortly".

Mr Bruton said there is "no intention to drag out this process". He said there was a "determination to reach a decision in a timely way, but it is an important decision and it is one that we're determined to get right".

Tánaiste Simon Coveney last night insisted the NBP is "not on the long finger", but there was "some more work to do" before Mr Bruton could lay out proposals to Cabinet.

Mr Coveney added: "We are not talking about months here, we are talking about weeks."





Criticised:

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar in the new post office in Castleknock, with staff member Christian Ghiuzan (left), Debbie Byrne, managing director of An Post Retail, and David McRedmond, chief executive of An Post (right). MAXWELLS

Dublin is 'group of death' in elections that will make Europe much more interesting

One

seat will

now be

put into

storage'

'cold

until

Brexit

happens



UROPEAN elections have never caught the public imagination but strap yourself in because this time round we are in for a real contest.

The arrival of Clare Daly (Dublin), Mick Wallace (Ireland South) and Peter Casey (Midlands-North West) means every constituency has its own firebrand.

Among the 59 names on the various ballot papers there is also a collection of ex-ministers and sitting TDs whose reputations are on the line.

And there are newcomers, most from the left-wing persuasion, who are hoping to make a name for themselves.

The last-minute entry from Ms Daly has ensured the capital is clearly the 'group of

death'. Dublin was to gain an extra seat, meaning four MEPs would be elected, but one of those will now be put into 'cold storage' until Brexit happens.

N

Ms Daly lines up against former Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald who will be desperate to hold the Fine Gael seat but also to acquire personal vindication in light of her controversial resignation from the Cabinet.

Until now, Fianna Fáil was confident that by putting ex-children's minister Barry Andrews forward it could regain a seat, but that is far from certain. And the only sitting MEP seeking re-election, Sinn Féin's Lynn Boylan, will be looking over her shoulder at Ms Daly.

Add in the President's daughter, Senator Alice Mary Higgins (Ind) and ex-communications minister Alex White, who is running for the Labour Party, and you have a contest.

The constituencies outside of Dublin are more than a little on the crazy side because of their geography rather than their candidates.

Ms Daly appears better fixed that her Independents4Change colleague, Mick

Wallace, who is running in Ireland South. Dublin

It's another constituency affected by the Brexit 'twist'. When the parties starting planning, they envisaged five seats but this is now back down to four.

Fine Gael needs to keep the two seats held by Seán Kelly and Deirdre Clune.

Technically Fianna Fáil has one seat but Brian Crowley wasn't operating under the party whip for the past five

Sitting Cork TD Billy Kelleher has been teamed up with Cllr Malcolm Byrne from Wexford, although early signs are they aren't working as much of a team.

Then there is Sinn Féin's Liadh Ní Riada, who had an abysmal showing in the presidential election. Her overall vote is likely to be dented but the likelihood is that she'll survive.

While Dublin might be the best battleground, the best colour will come from Midlands-North West.

The arrival of Peter Casey into the race will have upset Fianna Fáil, Sinn Féin and sitting Independent Luke 'Ming'

Flanagan. The latter topped the poll this time but is very much the target of Casey, who got more than 300,000 first preference votes in last October's presidential election.

Mairead McGuinness should easily hold the Fine Gael seat, but bringing in her running mate, former Rose of Tralee Maria Walsh, will be a bridge too far.

Sinn Féin's Matt Carthy will feel threatened by Casey and also the fact that he openly admits he isn't definite about serving the five-year term. Carthy has eyes on the Dáil whenever a general election is called.

Fianna Fáil hopes to gain a seat here by running two TDs: Brendan Smith and Anne Rabbitte.

Overall seven TDs have fielded, many of them with a good chance of winning. By rule, they must resign from the Dáil when the Euro assembly convenes on July 2, and by-elections must be held within six months, taking us to early January.

Most people at Leinster House say you will have a general election before a clatter of by-elections.



his constituency

leader," he told the Irish Independent. "Varadkar and Fine Gael have added insult to injury...extolling their undying support for the promotion of the regions while closing Garda stations and hundreds of post offices.

"The election cannot come quick enough."



AGSI to fully support garda facing security work probe

Tom Brady

THE leader of the association representing 2,200 Garda supervisors has said it will support its member at the centre of allegations of being involved in security consultancy work contrary to the force's regulations.

Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors (AGSI) general secretary John Jacob said any member facing an investigation into allegations in the past had been given its backing. He expected that would also happen on this occasion.

Two high-ranking members of the association have opted to stay away from its annual conference, which began in Ballyconnell, Co Cavan, yesterday, because they were not satisfied at the way the allegations were being handled.

Vice president Paul Wallace and deputy general secretary Antoinette Cunningham both decided not to attend the three-day event.

An apparent rift within the leadership widened after the controversy became a public issue at the weekend.

The issue totally dominated a four-hour meeting of the association's national executive on Sunday evening, where most members agreed that the conference should be held as planned.

But Mr Jacob said that he did not agree that the controversy had cast a cloud or a shadow over the conference.

He said he was not sure it had been clearly articulated by those who had stayed away whether their absence was related to that specific issue, and he was not able to speak on their behalf.

There were 140 delegates attending to listen to the debates and presentations.

"The delegates that have spoken to me are not concerned about those allegations and they want to get on with the agenda," Mr Jacob added.

"The person at the centre of the allegations should be entitled to the anonymity that is given to anybody else facing other allegations.

"Due process should be allowed to take its course and Garda management allowed to investigate these allegations.

"In the past the association has supported any of its members facing allegations and that will happen on this occasion, too."

President Cormac Moylan said everyone was innocent until proven guilty, but he admitted that the timing of the publication of the allegations and the Garda investigation was "not wonderful".

Justice Minister Charlie Flanagan later called on the association to resolve the controversy that has created divisions in its leadership.

Mr Flanagan told AGSI members they needed a strong association, in which they could have confidence.

He added that as minister he needed a strong association, which he could trust to represent them.

"And, as a country, we need a Garda leadership which we know adheres to the highest standards," he said.

Addressing its annual conference, Mr Flanagan said: "I know that this year you are having some difficulties and that some of your senior members have felt unable to attend.

"I am looking forward to the resolution of these issues".



Take the R2D2: Road named after 'Star Wars' robot

A ROAD in Donegal has been renamed the R2D2 in tribute to one of the most famous characters in 'Star Wars'.

New signs were unveiled on what was the R242 near Malin Head to mark where scenes from the most recent instalment of the saga, 'The Last Jedi', were filmed.

A replica R2D2 droid joined other 'Star Wars' characters on the country's most northerly point to celebrate

the novel tourism initiative.

The name-change on a road that runs through the scenic Inishowen peninsula has been approved by Donegal County Council. It was initially agreed on a temporary basis but the switch is now set to become permanent.

Jack Murray, a local councillor who also works with tourism organisation Explore Inishowen, first proposed the rebrand.

"Hopefully for a long time tourists will come and get their photo taken with the R2D2 sign and see the beautiful location where 'Star Wars' was filmed," he said.

Education Minister Joe McHugh, a TD for Co Donegal, formally cut the ribbon at the ceremony.

The signage has been erected ahead of Inishowen's first May The Fourth Be With You festival next month.

HSE asks court for order over 'man's refusal to leave facility' after being discharged

Aodhan O Faolain and Ray Managh

THE HSE has asked the High Court for orders compelling a man who it says has been fit for discharge for some time to leave one of its medical facilities.

Lawyers for the man told the court that he is prepared to leave the facility, but he has nowhere to go and is seeking suitable accommodation from the relevant local authority.

Neither the man nor the HSE facility can be identified for legal reasons.

Last year the man, who is aged in his 30s, was admitted to a hospital and required surgery due to a very serious medical condition. Since then he has undergone various medical treatments, has made a relatively good recovery and for the last number of months has been staying in a single room at a HSE-run facility.

The HSE claims that given the improvement in his condition there is no clinical reason for him to remain at the facility, and he has been clinically discharged.

However, due to an inability to obtain any alternative accommodation, the man has refused to leave the facility, the HSE claims. It says the local authority did offer the man accommodation, but he turned it down. Efforts were also made to see if the man could stay with family members, but these have not proven successful, it said.

The HSE claims that other patients are being prejudiced by the man's unlawful occupation of the room, where there is a significant waiting list. He has no lawful entitlement to be there, and is a trespasser, the HSE further claims.

Late last week, Ms Justice Leonie Reynolds granted the HSE permission to serve short notice of the proceedings on the man. The judge adjourned the matter to later this week.

Woman (61) charged with careless driving over death of pedestrian

Andrew Phelan

A WOMAN has been charged with careless driving causing the death of one pedestrian and seriously injuring three others in a crash in south Dublin.

Rosemarie Gallagher (61) is facing trial after she appeared in court charged over the 2017 crash.

Judge Michael Walsh remanded her on continuing bail for the preparation of a book of evidence.

Ms Gallagher, with an address at Belville, Donny-



Benjamin Renard was struck as he walked on the footpath

brook, Dublin 4, is accused of driving without due care and attention.

The charge alleges that this caused the death of Frenchman Benjamin Renard (24) and serious harm to three other men.

The alleged offence happened at Adelaide Road, Dublin 2, on August 22, 2017.

Detective Garda Patrick Traynor said he arrested Ms Gallagher at Pearse Street station on the morning of March 27 and she made no reply to the charge after caution.

She was handed a copy of the

charge sheet. Det Gda Traynor said the DPP was directing trial on indictment, meaning the case will be sent forward to Dublin Circuit Criminal Court for trial when a book of evidence is ready.

Scooter

Judge Walsh asked where the accused was, as she had not come forward when her case was called.

Her barrister said she was "on a scooter in the back of the court".

He said he had no further application to make.

The judge adjourned the case to a date in June.

Ms Gallagher was not required to address the court during the brief hearing and has not yet indicated how she intends to plead to the charge, which is under the Road Traffic Act.

When the proceedings concluded, she left the Criminal Courts of Justice on her mobility scooter.

Mr Renard, a LinkedIn account manager from France, was struck by a car as he was walking on a footpath with friends on Adelaide Road at

6.15pm on August 22, 2017, an inquest into his death heard.

The car, a Saab convertible, ended up on its side in the middle of the road.

The four men and the driver of the car were rushed to hospital. Mr Renard died two weeks later, on September 5.

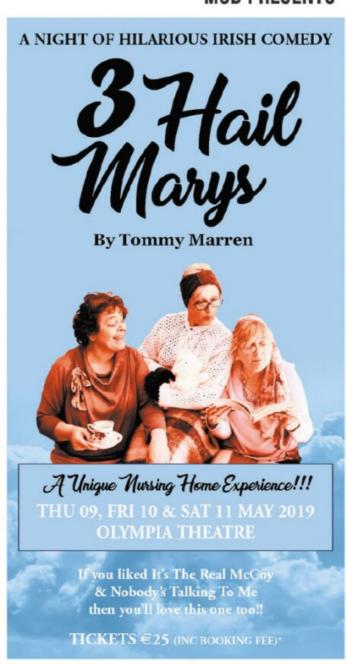
A post-mortem gave the cause of death as cerebral trauma due to a road traffic collision.

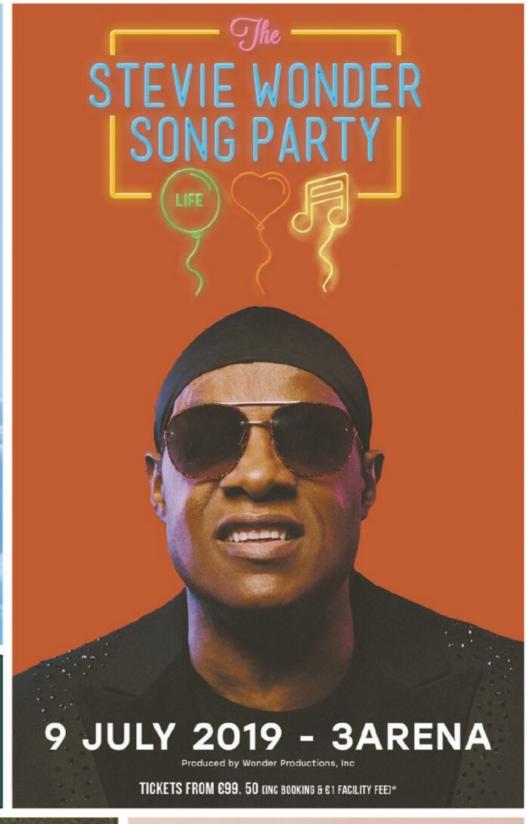
Mr Renard had studied at Dublin City University, where he was awarded a BA in global business, marketing and sales in 2014.

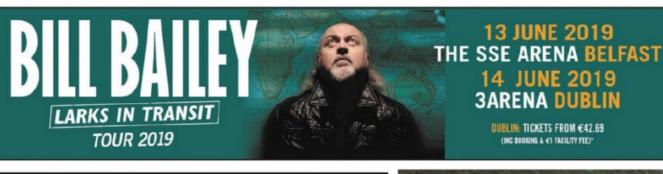
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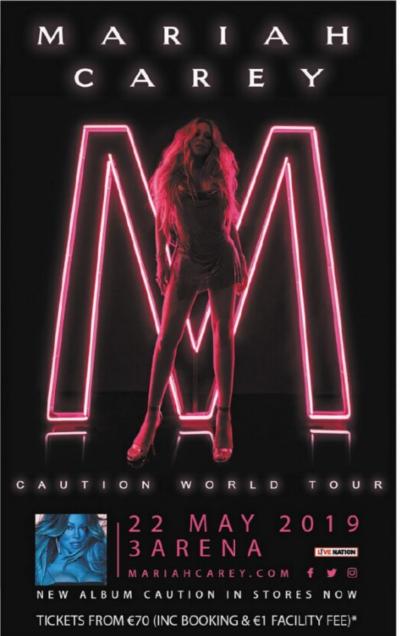
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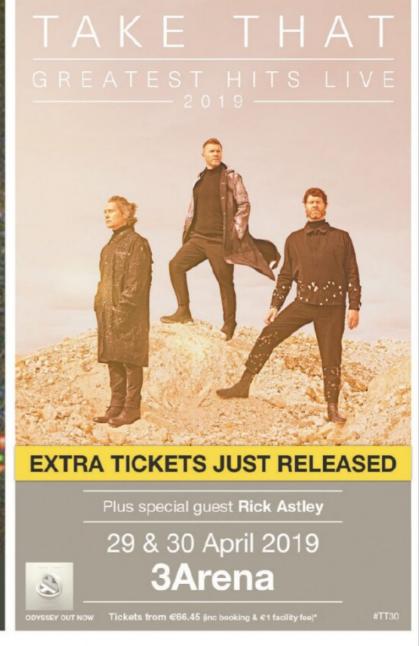






















Motorists face more M7 misery with roadworks to last until July

Allison Bray and Rachel Farrell

FED-UP commuters are losing patience after learning that upgrades to one of the busiest motorways are to continue for at least another three months.

Roadworks on the M7 were originally expected to be completed by early 2019. But in January the estimated completion date was changed to April.

Following a meeting at Kildare County Council yesterday, local Labour councillor Mark Wall confirmed the project's estimated completion date has now been pushed back to the end of July.

"I'm getting a lot of frustration today," he said of the reaction by local constituents and commuters yesterday.

"Everyone was looking forward to the end of April. A lot of commuters are very frustrated."

The project will see the M7

widened from Naas to the M9, along with the bypass of Sallins and a new interchange at Osberstown, Co Kildare.

The road carries almost 61,000 vehicles every day and is the main network connection to Waterford, Cork and Limerick.

The council's director of services Niall Morrissey told 'Newstalk Breakfast' yesterday that work crews are making 'great progress' but the job is a daunting one. "It's a difficult job, a tight site of 14km long. Motorists can see that sections are getting completed, we are making great progress and what you will see is the first phase from Johnstown J8 to Naas south, we're aiming to open that up sometime next month.

"People will see a huge improvement in that first section of the journey. As that gets finished, you'll see the crews from that site moving onto the



60,374

average daily traffic volume along M7

13.5km

length of roadway being widened from dual carriageway to three lanes, starting at Johnstown (J7) to the Naas south exit (J11)

2

number of new interchanges

next section and joining up with their other colleagues from Naas south onto the merger." he said.

As for the delay, he said: "Back in December we projected we might get it done by April or May, but it's a difficult site, every metre of excavation is a challenge. Two major challenges we faced were demolition of the bridge and construction of the new bridge

last weekend, which both went down very well. We're trying not to put out too many dates, but we do see that we're making great progress."

The roadworks mean that motorists must slow down to 60kmh from the maximum motorway speed of 120kmh.

Drivers were also advised to slow down to 25kmh last weekend following the demolition of an overpass. The ensuing bottlenecks mean that motorists can expect to add at least half an hour onto their journeys, Mr Wall said.

The upgrade project began in January 2018 when Taoiseach Leo Varadkar described it as "a vital motorway for commuters and freight transport, which is prone to congestion at peak times".

Conor Faughnan, director of

consumer affairs for AA Ireland, said that while it is understandable for commuters and other motorists to be frustrated by the delay, it will be worth the wait in the long run.

"Unfortunately we will have to grin and bear it for a couple more months," he told the *Irish Independent* last night. "But it's a piece of road infrastructure that the country needs."





Three-tier divide opens up as Vhi covers its private patients' costs for top cancer drugs

Eilish O'Regan

HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A "THREE-TIER" system of access to expensive cancer drugs has emerged after it was confirmed Vhi will only cover the medicines for its insured patients who are being treated in private hospitals.

Vhi members who are treated privately in public hospitals will not be eligible for the drugs.

It follows an announcement by Vhi that it will provide wider availability to the drug pembrolizumab for stage-three melanoma and pertuzumab for patients with stage-three breast cancer.

This was seen as exacerbating the two-tier public and private divide, because the HSE has so far not agreed to fund the drugs for these stages of cancer.

However, although Vhi has taken the step of moving ahead of the HSE, it emerged the drugs will only be available to patients treated in private hospitals which attract the most-costly cover plans.

A spokeswoman said: "Vhi has provided cover for pembrolizumab (Keytruda) since 2016 and Perjeta (pertuzumab) since 2014. We recently wrote to consultant oncologists advising them that we had approved several new clinical indications within our list of approved drugs, which are in line with international best practice and subject to prior approval.

"These drugs referred to are currently covered by the public system but not for all the clinical indications listed." She said that "in public hospitals reimbursement is provided in accordance with the relevant statutory charges set by the Health Minister".

"These charges encompass all the services provided by the hospital to a customer while accommodated in a public hospital, including drugs."

St Vincent's Hospital oncologist John Crown said it was troubling that it would mean an inequity between public and private patients who are being treated for the same stage cancer.

The drugs are administered to patients through infusions which are given in day centres.

The HSE said there is a very clear process for assessing applications for the public reimbursement of medicines, and this is being followed in respect of the drugs and the conditions now being referred to. Drugs are assessed first by the National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics.

The HSE spokesman said the makers of the drugs MSD and Roche are to provide additional clinical and cost information as part of the examination of cost effective-

Roche, which makes pertuzumab, said it was not yet contacted by Vhi but will happily engage. MSD did not respond.

Laya Healthcare, the other major insurer, said it welcomed the National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics review of both drugs and as ever when standards of care evolve and change, it will amend its treatment and procedures in consultation with its own medical advisory board.

Codeine addiction 'epidemic' here is 'verging on eruption'

Eilish O'Regan

ADDICTION to the painkiller codeine is "an epidemic verging on eruption and should be recognised now", according to an article in the 'Irish Medical Journal'.

Emma McDonnell, of the Graduate Entry Medical School, University of Limerick, said there was a 208pc rise in the prescribing of codeine between 2006 and 2016.

It is also available in some over-the-counter products and it is difficult to monitor if

a particular patient is "codeine shopping" – travelling to different pharmacies to buy it.

"Without medical supervision, a large proportion of the Irish population is self-medicating with codeine and many have unknowingly developed an addiction," she said.

"Those who suffer from a codeine addiction often tell how their relationship with the drug started so innocently in the quest for pain relief and they had little to no understanding of the truly addictive nature of the drug."

Panel show: A section of the secondclass library maple panelling from the Britannic, below.



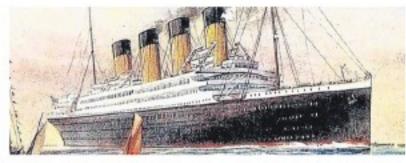
Sale away: Titanic sister ship's panels to fetch €500,000 at auction

Liam Collins

ORNATE panelling from the Titanic's sister ship will be sold in a historic auction next month.

"It is like sitting in the lounge of the Titanic, it is the exact same cabinet makers and artisans who carved it," said antiques dealer Niall Mullen.

The seasoned maple and oak formed the Britannic's first-class stateroom and second-class library at the Harland & Wolfe shipyard around 1912. It is believed to come from wood that was felled in the late 1870s and seasoned for 30 years.



How it survived in Ireland for so long is almost as incredible as the sinking of the Titanic by an iceberg in the middle of the open waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

One of the wood-panelled rooms has been erected in situ for a Niall Mullen auction at the Heritage Hotel, Killenard, Co Laois, on May 1 and 2, while the other is still in a private house.
Combined, they could sell

for well over €500,000.

Like the Titanic, the
Britannic suffered a tragic
fate – while en route to
collect troops wounded
during World War I, the ship

hit a mine laid by a German

U-boat and sank in the Aegean Sea. The wreck lay at a depth of 400ft for 59 years until it was discovered by explorer Jacques Cousteau.

The Britannic's stored, luxurious furniture and fittings were auctioned in Belfast in 1919 and the ornate carved wood panelling was used to adorn the La Scala Theatre and Opera House in Dublin, which later became the Capitol Cinema.

It remained in place until the building's demolition in 1972, making way for what is now Penneys, and the panelling was in a private residence near Dublin until now.

Plebiscites on a directly elected Lord Mayor/Mayor with executive functions for

Cork City Council (Lord Mayor) Limerick City and County Council (Mayor) Waterford City and County Council (Mayor)

On May 24 2019, the electors of the administrative areas of Cork City; Limerick City and County; and Waterford City and County will be asked in separate plebiscites to vote on a Government proposal for a Mayor/Lord Mayor with executive functions to be directly elected by the people in their area.

This public vote is called a plebiscite. This is an electoral poll consulting the public on a proposal. The plebiscite will take place on the same day as the local and European elections and the referendum on the regulation of divorce.

Under the Government's proposal, the directly elected mayor would represent the entire council area, serve for a 5-year term, and would have additional executive functions, including:

- (a) some or all of the functions now performed by the Chief Executive
- (b) such other functions as may be provided by or under statute

If the proposal is approved by a majority of voters in a council's administrative area, the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government will submit a report to the Oireachtas with legislative proposals for an election of a Lord Mayor/Mayor with executive functions by the people of that administrative area. The Oireachtas will then consider the legislation.

If the proposal is not approved by a majority of voters in a council's administrative area, the current structures in that council could not be changed without legislation.

Information on the Government's proposals and the plebiscite

Information about the plebiscite is available at: www.mayors.gov.ie or by contacting the relevant council. People can also request printed copies of information material by emailing: mayors@housing.gov.ie

Eligibility to vote in the plebiscite

People can vote in the plebiscite if they are on the Register of Electors in one of these administrative areas. People can check if they are registered to vote at: www.checktheregister.ie

People can apply to be included on the Supplement to the Register of Electors to be eligible to vote if their council receives their application form by Tuesday, 07 May 2019.

For those seeking inclusion on either the supplement to the postal or special voters lists, the relevant application forms will need to be received by their council by Sunday, 28 April 2019.

World News

BRITAIN

Causes of cancer show up in DNA of tumours

Sarah Knapton

THE cause of cancer is written into the DNA of tumours, scientists have discovered, in a breakthrough that could finally show how much disease is attributable to factors such as air pollution or pesticides.

Until now the roots of many cancers have proved elusive, with doctors unable to tease out the impact of myriad carcinogenic causes that people encounter every day.

In the case of lung cancer, it is not known how much can be attributed to smoking and how much could be linked to other factors, such as living by a busy road or inhaling pollutants.

Now scientists at Cambridge

University and King's College London have exposed stem cells to dozens of known carcinogens and recorded how each alters its DNA code as cancer forms. It provides a "fingerprint" or "mutational signature" of the underlying cause and could even show the biggest culprit.

The researchers have released a catalogue of the signatures caused by 41 environmental agents linked to cancer.

"Mutational signatures are the fingerprints that carcinogens leave behind on our DNA, and just like fingerprints, each one is unique," said Dr Serena Nik-Zainal, from the department of medical genetics at Cambridge. The research was published in the journal 'Cell'.

UKRAINE

President holds debate with empty lectern ahead of key second vote

Andrew Higgins

THE Ukrainian presidential race took a surreal turn when what was supposed to be a debate between the two candidates featured President Petro Poroshenko discussing his country's future with an empty lectern bearing the name of his rival, a comedian.

Volodymyr Zelensky (41) had made clear beforehand that he would not attend the debate because of a quarrel over timing.

But the president, struggling to revive his

flagging re-election campaign, went ahead anyway, assailing his opponent as an unserious "virtual candidate".

The one-man "debate", held in a stadium complex in Kiev, the capital, and broadcast live on television, came just a week before the second and decisive round of the election.

Mr Poroshenko (53) seized on Mr Zelensky's absence to press his campaign pitch that voters should not trust Ukraine's future to an untested comic at a time of

SYRIA

Nurse kidnapped by Isil five years ago 'may still be alive'

Josie Ensor

A NEW Zealand nurse kidnapped by Isil in Syria more than five years ago may still be alive, says her employer the Red Cross, breaking its silence in attempts to find her.

Louisa Akavi (62) was abducted with two Syrian colleagues in October 2013 while delivering aid in rebel-held Idlib in the north-west.

The International Commit-

tee for the Red Cross (ICRC) had been in intermittent contact with Isil jihadists holding her, but communication dried up by late 2014.

The 'New York Times' has reported the Red Cross has reason to believe Ms Akavi is alive, because at least two people described seeing her in December at a clinic in Sousa, one of the final villages to be held by Isil jihadists.

There have been other credible sightings, officials said.

Trump lashes out as redacted Mueller report due this week

Michael Balsamo

WASHINGTON

AS WASHINGTON counts down the final hours until publication of the redacted special counsel report, Donald Trump stepped up his attacks yesterday in an effort to undermine potential disclosures on Russia, his 2016 campaign and the aftermath.

Ahead of the expected publication on Thursday, he unleashed a series of tweets focusing on the previously released summary of special counsel Robert Mueller's conclusions – including a crucial one on obstruction of justice that Mr Trump again misrepresented – produced by Attorney General William Barr.

"Mueller, and the A.G. based on Mueller findings (and great intelligence), have already ruled No Collusion, No Obstruction," Mr Trump tweeted. "These were crimes committed by Crooked Hillary, the DNC, Dirty Cops and others! INVESTIGATE THE INVESTIGATORS!"

His press secretary Sarah Sanders repeatedly tried to make the same case on TV talk shows on Sunday.

But the political battle is far from finished over the special counsel's investigation of Russian efforts to help Mr Trump and whether there was co-operation with his campaign.

Democrats are calling for Mr Mueller himself to testify before Congress and have expressed concern that Mr Barr will order unnecessary censoring of the report to protect the president.

The House Judiciary Committee, led by Jerry Nadler of New York, is poised to try to compel Mr Barr to turn over an unredacted copy as well as the report's underlying investigative files.

The Justice Department announced yesterday that it expects to release the redacted version on Thursday morning, sending the findings of the nearly two-year probe to Congress and making them available to the public.

Mr Mueller officially concluded his investigation late last month and submitted the confidential report to Mr Barr. Two days later, the attorney general sent Congress a fourpage letter that detailed Mr Mueller's "principal conclusions."

In his letter, Mr Barr said the special counsel did not find a criminal conspiracy between Russia and Trump associates during the campaign. However, contrary to Mr Trump's false claim, Mr Mueller did not reach a conclusion on whether Mr Trump obstructed justice.

Instead, Mr Mueller presented evidence on both sides of that question. Mr Barr said

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> 'These were crimes by Crooked Hillary,

> > the

DNC,

Dirty

Cops...'

he did not believe the evidence was sufficient to prove that Mr Trump had obstructed justice, but he noted that Mr Mueller's team did not exonerate the president.

Portions of the report being released by the Justice Department will be redacted to protect grand jury material, sensitive intelligence, matters that could affect ongoing investigations and damage to the privacy rights of third parties, the attorney general has said.

People in UK 'can't afford to sit on

Catherine Wylie

LONDO

MICHELLE OBAMA has urged the people of the UK to stay engaged with politics and to resist becoming complacent or cynical.

The former US first lady said people "cannot afford to sit on the sidelines", and said it is time to "roll up our sleeves".

Ms Obama was speaking during her book tour at The O2 Arena in London on Sunday night.

'It's slame for us to roll up bour sleeves' the

She was asked what advice she would give people in the UK about how to stay calm in a time of turmoil.

Ms Obama joked: "Everybody's like 'help us out here'."
She added: "This trepidation,

She added: "This trepidation, the anxiety, I mean, it's everywhere, it's all over the world, for sure.

"We're seeing it. We're seeing it played out in our country and all over the place."

Ms Obama said the thing she loves about London is that it is "truly representative of true international diversity".

She said the world is at a point of "extreme change", what with social media, adding: "We know what's going on more now than we ever did before."

Ms Obama said: "So why would this be easy? And it's a little unreasonable for us to expect that we as a world go through this transition and it's not going to cause some fear and trepidation.

"And in all truth, that's part of what we have to learn, how





lan
O'Doherty:
Delaney is
a product
of Official
Ireland,
for whom
a bit a of
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can excuse
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of sins

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GERMANY

Porsche put off the road for being too shiny

GERMAN authorities have ordered a blinged-out golden Porsche off the road for being too shiny.

Hamburg's 'Morgenpost' reported the 31-year-old driver was stopped in the city and told his Porsche Panamera, sporting a reflective gold foil finish, might blind other drivers and was a danger. The car was towed and he was fined and told to remove the foil.

BRITAIN

N

UK democracy 'died quietly in sleep' - notice

A DEATH notice for UK democracy has been published in 'The Times'.

Democracy "died quietly in her sleep" at 11pm on March 29, the time that the UK had been scheduled to leave the

EU, according to the notice. It went on: "The cause of death was by foul play and the culprits have yet to be brought to justice. She will be sorely missed. God have mercy on her soul."





The scores of outstanding questions about the investigation have not stopped the president and his allies from declaring victory.

They have painted House Democrats' investigations as partisan overreach and have targeted news outlets and individual reporters they say have promoted the collusion story.

The president himself seethed at a political rally that the whole thing was an attempt "to tear up the fabric of our great democracy."

He has told confidents in recent days that he was certain the full report would back up his claims of vindication but was also convinced the media would manipulate the findings in an effort to damage him, according to two Republican sources.

In the waiting game's final days, the White House continued to try to shape the narra-

"There was no obstruction, which I don't know how you can interpret that any other way than total exoneration." press secretary Ms Sanders said on 'Fox News Sunday'.

While the president unleashed his personal grievances, his team seized on any exculpatory information in Mr Barr's letter, hoping to define the conversation in advance, according to White House officials and outside advisers who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to publicly discuss private deliberations.

Angry: Donald Trump boards Air force One at Minneapolis-Saint Paul Internationa Airport in Minnesota

yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

sidelines' over Brexit: ex-first lady



World is

Michelle

O2 Arena.

PHOTO: PA WIRE

changing:

Obama at the

to be a little more empathetic. "Because people are afraid,

because the world is changing so fast. And their fears are real. "We may not agree with

them but some people don't

know where their place will be in this new and changing society, this new and changing world."

She added: "But we've changed before. We've had tough times on this planet and we've come out of it."

"It is time for us to roll up our sleeves. If we are not happy with the state of things, then in democracies we have votes.

"But that means you've got to pay attention and we have to be engaged and we can't take our rights and liberties for granted, because if we don't vote, somebody will and that means that's the direction of the country that we're in.

"So this still is all within our control and it's all within our power in our democracy.

"So my advice is get to work. Don't be complacent and don't become so cynical that you just turn off because democracy never stops.

"Just because you get cynical and emotional about it, it keeps going, so we cannot afford to sit on the sidelines."



Business Green Reit shares up as Vernon and Gunne pull trigger

22

Omar 'facing death threats' over 9/11 video

Darlene Superville

ILHAN Omar says she's faced increased death threats since US President Donald Trump spread around a video that purports to show her being dismissive of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

"This is endangering lives," she said, accusing Mr Trump of fomenting right-wing extremism. "It has to stop."

Her statement followed an announcement by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that she has taken steps to ensure the safety of the Minnesota Democrat and the speaker's call for Mr Trump to take down the video.

Soon after Ms Pelosi's statement, the video disappeared as a pinned tweet at the top of Mr Trump's Twitter feed, but it was not deleted.

Mr Trump further escalated the standoff yesterday morning, tweeting: "Before Nancy, who has lost all control of Congress and is getting nothing done, decides to defend her leader, Rep Omar, she should look at the anti-Semitic, anti-Israel and ungrateful US HATE statements Omar has made. She is out of control, except for her control of Nancy!"

Ms Pelosi was among Democrats who had criticised Mr Trump over the tweet, with some accusing him of trying to incite violence against the Muslim lawmaker.

An upstate New York man recently was charged with making death threats against

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders defended Mr Trump, saying the president has a duty to highlight Ms Omar's history of making comments that others deem anti-Semitic or otherwise offensive and that he wished no "ill will" upon the first-term lawmaker.

But Ms Omar said since Mr Trump retweeted the video on Friday night, she's received many threats on her life that referred or replied to the posted video.

"Violent crimes and other acts of hate by right-wing extremists and white nationalists are on the rise in this country and around the world," she said.

Man sues parents for destroying porn stash

Emma Snaith NEW YORK

A MAN who was living with his parents is suing them for allegedly throwing out his collection of pornography worth nearly \$29,000 (€25,000), according to court documents.

The rift between the family started in October 2016 when the unnamed man moved back into his parents' home in Michigan after a divorce, court documents say.

He was then asked to leave their house, where he had carried out housework instead of paying rent, after 10 months when police were called over a reported domestic incident.

The man said that he noticed his porn collection was missing after he moved to Indiana and his parents dropped off some of his belongings he had left at their home in November 2017. He said his parents told him that they had destroyed 12 boxes of porn films and two boxes of sex toys worth \$28,940.

The man allegedly called the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office and filed a police report but prosecutors refused to press charges. He then launched a \$86,822 (€77,000) civil lawsuit against his parents over the alleged destruction of his porn collection.

According to court documents, the man's father said in an email to his son: "Believe it or not, one reason for why I destroyed your porn was for your own mental and emotional health. I would have done the same if I had found a kilo of crack cocaine. Someday, I hope you will understand."

Tuesday, April 16, 2019 IRISH INDEPENDENT



Assange used embassy as 'centre for spying'

Guy Falconbridge

WIKILEAKS founder Julian Assange repeatedly violated his asylum conditions and tried to use the Ecuadorian embassy in London as a centre for spying, Ecuador's President Lenin Moreno told Britain's 'Guardian' newspaper.

London police dragged Mr Assange out of the embassy on Thursday after his seven-year asylum was revoked, paving

the way for his extradition to the United States for one of the biggest ever leaks of classified information.

Mr Assange's relationship with his hosts collapsed after Ecuador accused him of leaking information about Mr Moreno's personal life.

Mr Moreno denied to the 'Guardian' that he had acted as a reprisal for the way in which documents about his family had been leaked.

He said he regretted that Mr

Assange had used the embassy to interfere in other country's democracies.

"Any attempt to destabilise is a reprehensible act for Ecuador, because we are a sovereign nation and respectful of the politics of each country," Mr Moreno told the 'Guardian' by email.

"We cannot allow our house, the house that opened its doors, to become a centre for spying," the 'Guardian' quoted Mr Moreno as saying.

"This activity violates asylum conditions. Our decision is not arbitrary but is based on international law."

Supporters of Mr Assange said Ecuador had betrayed him at the behest of Washington, that the ending of his asylum was illegal and that it marked a dark moment for press freedom.

Mr Assange is being held in a British jail and his next court appearance will be on May 2 via video link.



Protest: Support of Julian Assange in London. PHOTO: AP

RT€ **½**^{FM} XMAS BALL '19 IN AID OF ISPCC 3ARENA | 21ST DECEMBER TICKETS ON SALE THIS THURS AT 9AM TICKETS €39.50 (INC BOOKING FEE) • TICKETMASTER.IE • 0818 719 300 PHONE & INTERNET BOOKINGS SUBJECT TO 12.6% SERVICE CHARGE PER TICKET (MAX €6.85), AGENTS MAX €3.30 PER TICKET

Putin plans first summit with Kim next week

Oliver Carroll

MOSCOW

THE Kremlin has confirmed preparations are under way for a historic first summit between Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong-un.

On Sunday, the South Korean news agency Yonhap reported the North Korean leader would travel to Vladivostok as early as next week.

The Russian president is due in Beijing for high-level meetings on April 26-27, and it is believed that a summit could happen in the days immediately before.

The reports fell in line with earlier comments made by a group of Russian parliamentarians, who had intimated such a visit was planned in the spring.

'Kim wants gradual sanctions relief in exchange for limited denuclearisation'

Speaking at his daily conference with journalists, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov declined to name a date and time for the meeting but did confirm that the presidential administration was actively preparing for such a scenario.

"As soon as there is complete clarity over the timelines and place of the meeting, we will inform you," Mr Peskov said.

With negotiations about sanctions relief at an impasse between North Korea and the US, the Kremlin hopes Mr Kim is ready to pivot its way.

But it remains to be seen whether Moscow has the leverage to deliver on what the



Kim Jong-un: Could travel to Vladivostok next week to meet

North Korean leader needs.

"Kim wants gradual sanctions relief in exchange for limited denuclearisation moves," said the former diplomat and foreign relations expert Vladimir Frolov.

"And here Vladimir Putin is more than happy to step in and present himself as the world's elder statesman. But if there isn't major progress, Kim may well change tack and start doing bad stuff."

A meeting between the two leaders has long been touted. Some had speculated it would happen at Russia's flagship Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok last September.

Meanwhile, US Attorney General William Barr has told Congress he hopes to release the nearly 400-page Special Counsel Robert Mueller report this week.

It looks into Russia's role in the 2016 US election, with many details expected to emerge when the document is finally released.

But portions will be blacked out to protect certain types of sensitive information. (© Independent News Service)

IRISH INDEPENDENT Tuesday, April 16, 2019

Frank Coughlan

Why wealth of experience is no longer valued **20**

Editorial

Delaney was off the ball with lack of explanation

0

Comment

Delaney is a product of Official Ireland, for whom a bit of plámásing can excuse a multitude of sins

Ian O'Doherty



HEN they fall, it starts slowly. Then the process speeds up and before you know it, they're out.

That's the usual political adage about autocrats and dictators and while it would be both unfair and simply inaccurate to describe John Delaney as either an autocrat or a dictator, it's remarkable to see how quickly falls the crown.

For nigh on 14 years, John Delaney has run the FAI with a velvet glove.

But despite the justified grumblings from supporters of the international team, who have long expressed their displeasure with how the most popular sport in the country has been governed, there was always the forlorn sense that John Delaney would just carry on doing whatever he wanted to do.

Seemingly oblivious to both the parlous state of the nation's finances and the truly chaotic nature of his own association's bank balance, there was always the impression that the man-who-was-chief before taking up some makey-up job with the FAI, would walk away unscathed from both the bad publicity and sloppy management which has come to symbolise his reign at the helm of the people's game.

That fear was understandable – few people seem to represent the old ways of Official Ireland quite as eloquently, and corrosively, as the Waterford man.

Another old political adage is that the cover-up will kill you quicker than the crime. But as Delaney's catastrophic appearance at the Oireachtas Committee hearing last week showed a stunned nation, he didn't even feel the need to engage in a cover-up.

Instead, he simply batted back the pertinent questions with an almost contemptuous shrug of the shoulders, while

parroting the lines that he was precluded from saying anything on the grounds of the legal advice he had received.

But legal advice is just that – advice. It's not a warrant or a subpoena. It's not a legal writ that you can't break. It is merely advice – but sometimes, if you're very lucky, you can get the advice that you want to hear.

We're all well used to seeing American politicians turning up at Congressional hearings and 'pleading the 5th' on the grounds that anything they say might be used to incriminate them.

Usually, those people at least have the common sense to look ashen-faced and embarrassed. In Delaney's case – and this is what ultimately did for him – he had the look of a man who thought he had just come up with a cunning wheeze to get out of answering any awkward questions.

But his tone was wrong. His demeanour was dismissive and he had the look of the kind of man we all know only too well – a gilded member of Official Ireland; one of that strange tribe who still think that a bit of glad-handling and plámásing can excuse a multitude of sins.

As he discovered to his cost – and what a vast cost that is, when you consider the salary he was on – that stuff doesn't play with the people anymore. Or, indeed, the members of his own association. Much to his undoubted chagrin, the leaks came thick and fast.

The revelations about his rent being paid by his employers. The more recent and truly eye-watering credit card activity.

Let's not even go back to the €100,000 'bridging loan' that he munificently extended towards the same employers who were paying his rent; an act so mysterious, and still so unexplained, that it may as well be a secret from Fatima.

Delaney is a very personable chap, regardless of what some people might say, and the stories of him buying rounds for fans, or being carried shoulder-high from a bar when fans took his shoes, are legendary.

But it's hard to imagine his equivalent in the IRFU, Philip Browne, disporting himself in the same fashion.

The mortification fans felt when they saw their chief executive behaving like one of the lads on the lash should not be underestimated – Irish football people love their football and take it seriously, and they have no time for the parish-pump style of operating that Delaney often seemed to engage in.

This is an important point and one which has been largely overlooked in the recent coverage – Delaney is a symptom of the problem with this country, rather than merely the problem itself.

He went around the country dispensing FAI development cheques with all the aplomb of a local TD distributing Lotto

But where to now for John Delaney? Some sources in Waterford have suggested that he would easily romp home in an election

funds as if they were from is own pocket. That he did good work for the grassroots in this country is not in doubt.

But that was his job, for which he was so handsomely rewarded, and the idea that he should be thanked for merely carrying out his duties is both absurd and so very, very Irish.

Following Michael Healy-Rae's fatuous imprecations on his behalf at the Oireachtas hearing, and his even more ludicrous spat with Ivan Yates on Virgin Media last week, it was clear where the battle lines had been drawn – Delaney was one of the good old boys who looked after the people who resent the Dublin 'meeja'. Simply put, he was one of their own.

That may play well to the crowd when you're a parochial politician from some rural backwater. But when you're managing an organisation with multi-millions in turnover, and which is supposed to be one of the most important forces for good in this country, it simply doesn't stand up to any rational scrutiny.

Healy-Rae's hamfisted defence of Delaney was actually quite similar to Eamon Dunphy's support for Andy Reid and Wes Hoolahan – the message can be overshadowed by the messenger.

Delaney, shrewd man that he is, must have known the die was cast when Healy-Rae behaved like a buffoon on his behalf.

here is an appetite for vengeance against Delaney. But it should also be remembered that he is a formidable presence within Uefa and, while it is easy to scoff at his defenders, he is a canny operator and that shouldn't be forgotten in the rush to judgment.

So, apart from the inevitable Uefa gig, where to now for John Delaney? Some sources in Waterford have suggested that he would easily romp home in an election.

But when you look at the remuneration he has received from the FAI in the past, and will continue to receive from Uefa in the future, why would he take the pay cut?

This story has yet to run its course but one interesting point has been made in Dáil circles in the last 24 hours – forget about those politicians defending or denouncing him. It's the football-loving TDs who have stayed uncharacteristically quiet who will be the next ones to answer the hard questions.

As for the rest of the FAI board?

As Noel Rock and Robert Troy pointed out yesterday, extra time is ticking away on them as well.

Tuesday, April 16, 2019 IRISH INDEPENDENT

Why I changed my mind over 'Fortnite' as youngsters fight for an adult-free childhood



RINCE Harry might want 'Fortnite' banned because of its addictive qualities, but the online video game has clocked up another advocate to add to its 200 million fanbase after I recently realised its true attractions.

'Fortnite' was becoming an unbearable battle in our house with weekends tainted by squabbles over how long my son could play for. That is until one Saturday afternoon when I wanted it turned off RIGHT NOW after my son had already spent an hour playing. The echoing gunfire was giving me a headache and my nephew was due in an hour, and I knew the boys would want to play then.

After some pleading my son changed tack and begged to stay talking to his friend with his headset on, even if I turned off the screen. Taken aback I agreed and hovered around the door. Over the next 50 minutes they chatted about lots of different subjects - 'Fortnite' yes, but also 'Lord of the Rings', cola bottles v Haribo. It hit me then that 'Fortnite' is his platform to casually hang out with his mates. Kids are not allowed to knock around to each other's house or head out on their bikes having adventures like in the past, and so have to play together online to get away from the adult supervision.

Yes, they probably should be out playing footie in the park instead of video games online. But we don't let them. Instead they do adult-organised football where they don't get to sort out the rules by themselves. Ten year olds these days are not



have to be a

battlefield. It

kids to hang

out without

family

can be a

place for

parents

listening

Gathering: DJ Marshmello's live virtual concert on 'Fortnite' was 'attended' by millions

even allowed to walk home from school. It's no wonder 'Fortnite', where they are free to make their own choices, is so attractive. Constant supervision means no adventures.

The Boston College psychology professor Peter Gray is very vocal that online media is not a problem for children, and even says the internet is the "saviour of children's culture today and the one reason why adults have not managed to completely crush the culture of childhood".

"We have created a world in which children are more or less prevented from congregating in physical space without an adult, but children have found another way. They get together in cyberspace. They play games and communicate over the internet. They create their own rules and culture and ways of being with others over the internet," he told me.

He says older children share thoughts and feelings with friends through texting and social media, yet the hew and cry we keep hearing from so many educators and "parenting experts" now is that we must ban or limit children's screen time.

"Yes, if we all did that, while still banning them from public spaces without adult supervision, we would finally succeed in destroying the culture of childhood and prevent children from educating themselves in the way they have always done," he warned.

He says there is no proof video games are bad for psychological well-being in children. "By now, many dozens of studies have examined psychological correlates and consequences of video gaming and, taken as a whole, the results overwhelmingly support the idea that video gaming produces many of the same kinds of benefits as other forms of play," he said.

Prior to my new mindset, constant negative media coverage and also other parents moaning (myself included) had backed up my negative bias against 'Fortnite'. In fact my sister's child even brought a letter home from primary school forbidding the game to be played at home and

also banning any talk about 'Fortnite' in school. Which sounds like a surefire way to get kids interested. When my son's teacher expressed her concern that my son talked about the game a lot in school this just added to my 'Fortnite' free-floating anxiety. But now, unlike the Duke of Sussex, I know it's not a problem – kids will always get obsessed with stuff. When I was 10 it was fancy paper. It's just the topic has changed and we need to let our children experience the world as it is now.

'Fortnite' requires skill. These days you'll find me actually suggesting my son plays if he has had a stressful day or is fighting with his siblings. I also sat down once and played, which also added to my new-found 'Fortnite' appreciation.

If you're not acquainted here's what happens. There is a 'free' version of 'Fortnite' called 'Battle Royale'. You can play by yourself or in squads of two or four. The goal is to be the last man or group standing out of 100 to be awarded a win.

To stay alive you harvest materials with your pickaxe to defend yourself, move around the map and scavenge for weapons to kill others. There is an ever-encroaching storm you dodge. I would say it definitely teaches resourcefulness, map navigation and good hand-eye co-ordination, and most importantly it gives you more empathy as you immediately realise why your child can't stop suddenly and come to the dinner table. If you are part of a squad it's not OK to suddenly drop tools to go eat your macaroni cheese. Now I always give a 15-minute warning.

'Fortnite' does not have to be a family battlefield. See it for what it is. A place for kids to hang out without parents listening and actually it's probably a phase. You could set sensible limits, for instance no playing on weekdays, but outside of these limits, don't freak out if that's all they want to do. Once they get a bit older and can go to the park on their own with their mates they will most probably prefer to do that.

NOTEBOOK

Frank Coughlan

Why wealth of experience no longer valued



DON'T people just love their job titles? It isn't what you do so much as what you get to call it

when you're down the pub. 'Oh, I'm in management consultancy' can mean anything or nothing and frequently the latter.

That's the very professional role a 24-year-old bestowed upon himself in a glossy mag I was flicking through



at the weekend. He seemed like an intelligent, well-rounded young man and could well have a masters under his belt.

But who would want to consult somebody a damp semester out of college on how to manage people or a business? Being that age, even taking into consideration the wealth of theory and empirical knowledge garnered academically, does not qualify anyone to impart the sort of wisdoms required in the real world of hard knocks and sharp practice.

That is not to say his excellent education has been a waste. In fact, in time it could well prove invaluable. But you can only offer that sort of professional advice when you've lived the life, made the mistakes and have the bruises to prove it.

So it is odd that we frequently hear of people who tick all those boxes, and happen to find themselves on the declining slope of their fifties, unable to find work. These are the people, after all, who have the sort of nous, experience and corporate memory that would justifiably qualify them as consultants in the true sense of the world.

I know one woman who was armtwisted into taking a package from a middle-management role in a major financial institution and hasn't been able to beg a job interview, let alone secure a call back since. Bright, energetic and never a time-server, she finds this bewildering and dispiriting. How can this self-defeating policy persist at a time of well-documented skills shortages?

Could it be that freshly baked graduates are perceived as expecting less and willing to put up with more? Possibly. Do interviewers regard fiftysomethings as tech-dinosaurs who won't be able to keep up? Perhaps. Or is it just another 'ism'? Most likely.

According to London academic Lynda Gratton, author of 'The 100 Year Life', ageism at work begins as young as 40 for women and 45 for men.

At a time when people are living longer and healthier lives, this is truly addled thinking from businesses.

They should hire management consultants, preferably middle-aged ones, to look into it.

'Thrones' is a streaming marathon too far for me

'GAME of Thrones' has been described as soft porn with dragons by those who feel the need to sniffily dismiss it, or as

financial institution and hasn't been able to beg a job interview, let alone secure a call back since Bright energetic obsession

The hysteria around the launch of the final series did make me contemplate playing catch-up on its 70-odd episodes, but the truth is I don't ever want to become a slave to another streaming marathon in the way I was to 'The Sopranos' or 'Breaking Bad'.

I don't like to overdo nostalgia but there was a time when we all sat down together and watched the same drama unfold on the box. A shared experience of sorts.

Now we all retreat to different dark corners of the house to inhale these marathon dramas via personal devices for hours on end, becoming strangers to each other in our own homes.

When we eventually emerge, pale and malnourished, we can't even share our thoughts in case we spoil it for a fellow junkie.

I can't promise myself I won't succumb again to some gluttonous addiction, but I'm going to leave 'Game of Thrones' to the bleary-eyed already under its strange spell.

Enjoy.





EDITORIAL

DELANEY WAS OFF THE BALL WITH LACK OF EXPLANATION

N THE end it was what he didn't say that did for John Delaney.

His decision not to take questions at the highly anticipated Dáil committee showdown at Government Buildings proved to be the final blow in bringing down a central pillar of the FAI, already on shaky ground.

Reputation is far easier kept than recover, and Mr Delaney has been under the pump for too long to remain at the helm.

A divisive figure to begin with, the fact he managed to survive for 15 years was remarkable.

There is a sense that anyone who rubs against convention is courting an ignominious fate; and there can be no denying Delaney knew how to ruffle feathers.

There are many reasons why Delaney had to step aside. When the mystery surrounding the €100,000 "loan" first emerged, total candour and a complete explanation was the least we expected.

The days when accountability and transparency might ring hollow in the public echo chamber are long gone. Scarce resources must be used to maximum effect. Organisations which turn over hundreds of millions over the years come in for scrutiny and audits, and answers are a fact of life. Especially



The questions grew more pressing – stonewalling would not suffice

where public money is concerned. There can only be zero tolerance for secrecy or obfuscation.

Delaney rode his popularity too hard. His iron grip on the FAI started to slip when the grassroots began to grumble as to why the most popular sport in the country was still the poor relation when it came to facilities and resources.

A craving for success on the international stage went unsatisfied.

Meanwhile the GAA and the IRFU went from strength to strength.

As Ireland fell down the rankings, failing to qualify for the prestige tournaments, Delaney's €360,000 salary and extraordinary perks came

into even sharper focus. In a results-driven environment, performance and reward seemed out of balance.

But there was an even more significant problem. Corporate governance issues were drawing attention.

The State was sinking tens of millions of taxpayers' money into the FAI.

And taxpayers have an absolute right to expect their money is supporting an association that is an exemplar in best practice.

The questions grew more pressing – simply stonewalling would not suffice.

So there was little surprise when a member of the Oireachtas Committee on Sport claimed it had been "agreed across the political spectrum" that the entire board of the FAI must resign.

Fianna Fáil's Robert Troy said it was "very disappointing" the length of time the FAI board was taking to get back to the committee with answers it could not provide at last week's meeting.

When the train stays on the tracks no one needs explanations: but when things go off the rails they have to be provided. John Delaney's failure to recognise the urgency in furnishing them sealed his fate.

Letters



Write to Letters to the Editor, Irish Independent, 27/32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1, or email them to independent.letters@independent.ie Name and address must be supplied for verification. Lengthy contributions may be edited.

Those who turn down social housing create a new scandal

WHILE some mainstream media organisations, social housing charities and certain councillors and politicians constantly bombard us about the thousands of homeless people in Ireland, here are a few facts that they might publish, but will not.

Nearly 5,500 applicants turned down offers of social housing since 2016.

Some 357 of the applicants refused more than one offer of social housing and these included families.

The excuses range from anti-social behaviour, gardens not big enough, not enough bedrooms, lack of bus routes and fewer facilities, and the list goes on.

In my own county of Donegal, there were 129 multiple refusals of social housing from 61 applicants, a fact that certain councillors seeking re-election fail to allude to.

There were 78 in Sligo, 40 in Meath, 40 in Cork and the list goes on.

Between 2018 and 2021 our Government will have handed over €3bn to private landlords and in HAP payments to house the homeless.

While we constantly hear the crisis that is homelessness, what we aren't hearing are the voices of concerned taxpayers who are working and who do not meet the criteria for any type of social housing/housing given the rules and criteria that apply to applicants.

While we hear the tragedy that is homelessness, we don't hear the scandal of the refusals.

It may be unpalatable to some or even seen as outrageous to mention refusals, but it is the truth and one we pay dearly for.

Christy Galligan

Letterkenny, Co Donegal

Speaking with the voice of experience over Toastmasters

I WAS fortunate to read Keane's Kingdom by Billy Keane ("If you're nervous about speaking in public like I was, don't lollygag – join up with this talkative crew," *Irish Independent*, April 13). It spoke about the organisation Toastmasters and where members join to gain confidence in speaking in public.

Briefly, some years ago I went along to a meeting held in my home town, and I was made very welcome.

During the topics section, I stood up and answered the question addressed to me. I gave a very brief answer and sat down. My heart started to beat rather quickly and a trickle of perspiration made its way from the top of my spine to the base of my back. I decided, there and then, Toastmasters was

not for me and I would never be able to speak in public.

In hindsight it would have been the worst decision I would have made, and would always regret.

I picked up courage and went back. I started to enjoy the meetings and soon started to give my 'icebreaker' – my first speech.

Finally at our last meeting last week, I glanced around at our members at their tables.

They all had a smile on their face, they were all prepared to contribute and we all were there to work on our confidence in speaking in public.

Patrick Greham Ballina, Co Mayo

Casting rhyme and reason on health and homelessness

"WHEN hope is gone, we turn to fantasy. Imagine, then, that patients lie on beds, Not trolleys; and, unworried by the fee, Can rest, unHarrised, just like sleepyheads. Imagine too the homeless, warm, secure, Untroubled by the lack of Murphy's Law, And all included, whether rich or poor: They bless their God with every breath they draw.

But these are fantasies, Utopian. The trolleys mount in numbers; families walk In boredom round hotels. There is no plan. And politicians talk. They're good at talk."

Name and address with editor

Brexit has already overrun the very latest of breakfasts

AS I was partaking of my breakfast porridge, I learned from the label of the milk carton that the content was produced in Omagh, Co Tyrone.

I started wondering. In post Brexit (if there ever is such an era), where will my milk come from?

My father had gone to his reward decades before the word Brexit was coined. But he would always describe meetings and discussions that dragged on as "the length of a late breakfast".

Mattie LennonBlessington, Co Wicklow

Raising a glass to Guinness in fight against plastic waste

GOOD to see Guinness on the anti-plastic crusade. Mind you on the security front, one wonders what is the alternative to the (dreaded) plastic cup, containing your pint at concerts, sporting events etc?

Tom Gilsenan

Beaumont D9



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Tuesday, April 16, 2019 IRISH INDEPENDENT

Business

Green Reit shares up as Vernon and Gunne pull trigger



Ellie Donnelly

SHARES in Green Reit shot up more than 8pc yesterday after the property firm dramatically put itself up for sale.

The persistent discount between Green Reit's share price and the value of its portfolio of largely high end commercial property assets mainly in Dublin - was "at the core" of the decision to sell, Green's bosses said.

A sale could be of the entire stock market structure or of the portfolio of assets including prime offices let to the likes of the Revenue Commissioners, Barclays Bank and Vodafone, a developing logistics park near Dublin Airport and development sites beside the Central Park office park in south Dublin.

Key assets include Central Park office campus in Leopardstown, Fitzwilliam Hall in Dublin 2, and One Albert Quay in Cork city.

Earlier this year the group reported a 2pc rise in rental income to €34.4m for the six months to December 31, 2018.

Property veterans Stephen Vernon and Pat Gunne were among those in the industry who came through the last crash in good stead - having sold assets before the bubble

They then launched Green Reit in 2013, tapping the market for cash in order to buy

assets at knock-down prices and using the then newly introduced real estate investment trust (reit) legislation to set up the first listed property company of its type in Ireland.

The initial €310m raised from investors has evolved into a €1.4bn business. However, Green Reit is currently trading at a price that is 18pc less than the value of its assets.

Yesterday, Stephen Vernon and Pat Gunne said they would not be looking to acquire the business for themselves prompting some speculation that the property veterans were calling the top of the market.

However, Green Reit chair-

'This [sale] is demonstrably in the best interests of our shareholders'

man Gary Kennedy said the assets remain compelling.

"Green Reit owns one of the rare prime office and logistics portfolios of scale in Ireland. underpinned by strong tenants and a supportive market and macro environment.

"Notwithstanding this, the company's share price has been subject to a material and persistent structural discount to its net asset value per share for over three years now... It is

the board's view that this [sale] is demonstrably in the best interests of our shareholders," he added.

Green Reit was the first Irish reit, a special type of company that benefits from reduced taxation - including not having to pay corporation tax on rental profits or the standard capital gains on asset sales, as long as it meet criteria including only investing in property and distributing the vast bulk of income as dividends each year.

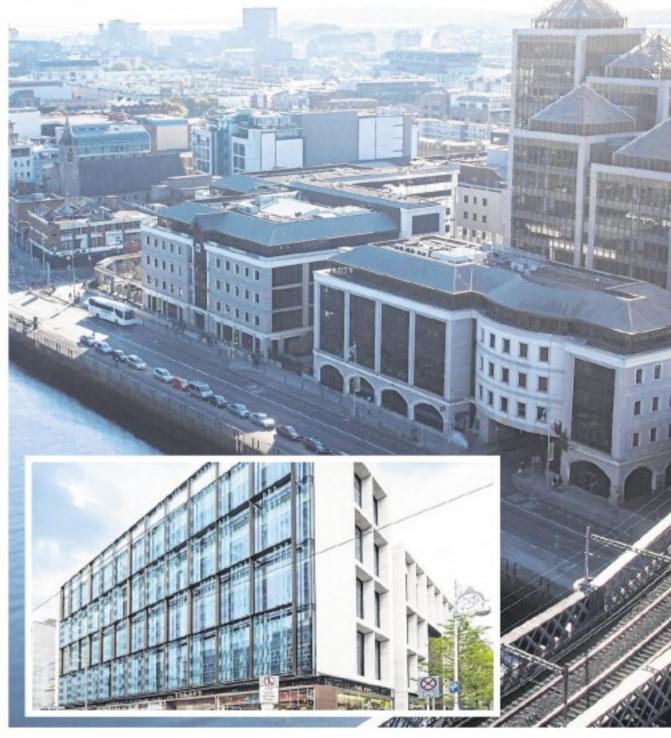
In theory, reit structures push the tax bill from the listed entity onto its investors, including capital gains when it is sold.

The group currently earns €75.5m in rent each year, and expects that to increase to €83m within 18 to 24 months. Colm Lauder, analyst at Goodbody Stockbrokers, said there was still "significant" development opportunity within the portfolio, including "a particularly attractive" 310-acre logistics park beside Dublin Airport.

"The Dublin office market has continued to see strong levels of interest from global investors with demand particularly strong for long-income streams," Mr Lauder

He added that Goodbody expect "strong demand" for the "unique" Green Reit portfolio offering.





It got in on the bottom so Green Reit doesn't have to call the top to get out ahead



n 2013, veterans Stephen Vernon and Pat Gunne moved heaven and earth in their race to create Ireland's first real estate investment trust (reit).

The reit was a means to an end. The important thing, they knew, was to have cash while commercial property prices were on the floor. With Green Reit now for sale, and Vernon and Gunne checking out, the question the market is asking is whether property prices have peaked.

Bosses at Green Reit insist the decision to sell now

is not calling the top, but reflects frustration at the underperformance of the reit's shares versus the price they'd get for its assets.

A gap between stock market valuation and assets isn't unusual for property firms. Hibernia Reit recently sold a Dublin office block and used a chunk of the proceeds to buy back its own shares, for much the same reason.

With Green Reit shares valued at €1bn and its assets at €1.5bn the gap is enormous, and its thought the board did look at

possible share buybacks as well as alternatives like shifting into new property segments before ultimately opting to sell.

Until a buyer is in place Green's own bosses will run a mile from any suggestion the market has peaked. They can point to their own robust rent rolls and a roster of tenants that offers a mix of the well-heeled and the sticky that would appeal to any investor - including the **Revenue Commissioners** and the Department of Foreign Affairs on the one hand and Barclays,

Vodafone, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Ulster Bank and AIB on the other.

Shares shot up yesterday, so the market at least believes a deal will play out well.

And the reality is that Green Reit doesn't have to call the top to be motivated to sell.

Having got in at the bottom six years ago there's Green shareholders who have had the best of the recovery. The option to get out, even if it means leaving something on the table for a new investor, simply makes sense.



ISEQ 0.94%

6395.18

FTSE 100 -.0026%

7436.87

STOXX 6000.15%
388.10

S&P 500-0.30%
2898.61





Earnings: George's Quay Plaza and One Molesworth Street (inset) are part of the Green Reit portfolio



of the market



Race:
Stephen
Vernon and
Pat Gunne
created
Ireland's first
real estate
investment
trust in 2013

Third of bank staff concerned by failure to act in customers' interests

Ellie Donnelly

ONE in three bank staff say they have wanted to raise concerns at work in the past year — mainly over their own banks not acting in the best interests of customers or clients.

A survey of employees across the five main retail lenders found that of those who wanted to raise a concern, 59pc spoke up, while one in four didn't do so.

The main reasons employees did not speak up were fear it would be held against them, and/or that nothing would happen anyway.

And it appears their fears were justified, with 42pc of staff who did raise issues saying they were not listened to or not taken seriously.

The results of the survey were unveiled at the launch of the Irish Banking Culture Board (IBCB) an initiative aimed at rebuilding shattered trust in the banking sector in the wake of scandals including the bank bailouts and the tracker redress scheme.

The IBCB is "the last chance for banks to restore trust", Minister of State Michael D'Arcy said at the launch in Dublin yesterday. The financial crisis and tracker mortgage scandal had done "terrific damage for your (banking) institutions", he told industry representatives at the launch event.

There was a "real need to promote a sustainable banking sector that adheres to the highest standards of professionalism in its treatment of customers", he said.

Costs of the IBCB are being funded by the five Irish retail banks; AIB, Bank of Ireland, KBC Bank Ireland, Permanent TSB and Ulster Bank.

Senior executives from those banks, most notably including Ulster Bank CEO Jane Howard, will also hold five of the 14 seats on the IBCB.

IBCB's chairman Mr Justice John Hedigan said the fact that the banks were paying for the new structure did not mean it would "be dancing to anyone's tune".

"The alternative to the banks financing it is that the taxpayers finance it and that's unthinkable in the circumstances in which we find ourselves," Mr Hedigan said.

"The banks own the problem and the banks have to own the solution as well."

He added that "great care"

The financial crisis and had been taken to ensure that racker mortgage scandal had the consumer interest was replone "terrific damage for your resented."

Financial adviser Padraic Kissane, a leading advocated in the tracker restoration cases, is the consumer representative. Sue O'Neill, from the Small Firms Association, and Martin Stapleton, of the Irish Farmer's Association, will also represent customers of banks.

Bank staff are represented by Gareth Murphy of the Financial Services Union (FSU).

Bankers on the board will not be paid, including Gareth Murphy, although the other members will be paid €30,000 per year.

Mr Hedigan said the aim of the IBCB is to shift the culture that determines behaviour within financial institutions.

"It's culture that you need in the background to ensure that proper regulation and proper behaviour is maintained by the banks," he said.

He added that it's all about embedding in the staff a culture "in which ethical behaviour is inevitable and where, in future, leadership that want to behave in a way that isn't appropriate will not find a compliant staff behind them ready to go there".



Launch:
Acting CEO,
Marion Kelly;
Minister of
State Michael
D'Arcy; and
Irish Banking
Culture
Board's
Chairman, Mr
Justice John
Hedigan

A massive imbalance in favour of bankers means that this initiative looks doomed from the start



S the new Irish
Banking Culture Board
destined to fail before
it gets going?

The signs are not good that the initiative that aims to do something about the rotten culture of Irish banks will succeed.

For starters, the make-up of its new 14-person board is a huge concern. Having a board with five bankers does not engender confidence. There are two board members with a consumer background, and a member each representing farmers and small businesses. There should be five consumer representatives.

The new board aims to act as an advocate for cultural change in the banking sector. Will the head of Ulster Bank and senior executives from AIB, Bank of Ireland, Permanent TSB, and KBC Bank really push through changes that will put customers head of the profit motive?

The genesis of the culture board comes from the tracker scandal.

That outrageous affair saw families lose their homes, with people overcharged by thousands of euro, prompting medical and mental issues for many.

And boy has it taken a lot to get this far. As the journalist who broke the tracker scandal story all of 10 years ago, I know all about banks' lies, evasions and denials.

So bankers are now going to examine their behaviour and make sure no such scandal happens again, now that they are funding a Banking Culture Board?

Not so fast. Thousands of tracker cases continue to be disputed by banks. AIB, Bank of Ireland and Permanent TSB were questioned about these cases in the Oireachtas last week, and all declined to put their hands up.

Spare me the baloney about a new culture about to envelop the banks. If bankers are serious about improving how they treat customers they could start by honestly resolving all the tracker scandal cases. That would be a sign they are serious about improving their toxic culture.

They could move on to paying some corporate tax, and reducing mortgage rates. We could go on.

The new culture board for banks has all the makings of a PR spin machine.

Another whitewash from Mr Banker.



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EUROPE

Most on board of ECB have €100k

THIRTEEN members of the European Central Bank's Governing Council, including Mario Draghi, have at least €100,000 on deposit.

Outgoing Irish Central Bank Governor Philip Lane is among the 12 council members who do not have €100,000 in savings.

ECB President Mario Draghi was among the officials who ticked a box on a Declaration of Interests form saying that they have funds exceeding that amount in at least one bank.

AUTOMOTIVE

Germany charges diesel case CEO

FORMER Volswagen CEO Martin Winterkorn has spent the last few years confined to Germany to avoid possible US extradition for his role in the diesel-cheating scandal.

Now German authorities have charged Mr Winterkorn with serious fraud, an accusation that carries a maximum prison sentence of 10 years in Germany. Prosecutors in Braunschweig also said they will seek to recoup bonuses awarded to Winterkorn and four other managers charged.

AVIATION

IAG names new financial officer

AER LINGUS owner International Airlines Group (IAG) has announces that Enrique Dupuy de Lôme wil step down as chief financial officer and as a director at IAG's annual general meeting in June. He had been CFO for eight years, and before that was CFO of Iberia.

He will be replaced by Steve Gunning, currently chief financial officer at British Airways, whose appointment as a director will be proposed to the AGM.

FINANCE

Sachs appeals with good results

ON Wall Street Citigroup and Goldman Sachs both delivered better-thanexpected earnings yesterday. Instead of celebrating, executives spent the morning assuring investors they'll make more progress on revamping units that are dragging down results.

Growth stalled at
Citigroup's consumer unit, so
executives pointed to green
shoots in a digital bank effort.
Goldman Sachs highlighted
efforts to re-focus on more
electronic trades that require
less capital.

UK defies Brexit odds as investment hotspot

William Schomberg

The United Kingdom has defied uncertainty over Brexit to land the number one spot in a ranking of how attractive countries are for business investors over the coming year, according to a survey published yesterday.

It overtook the United States,

holder of the top spot since 2014, which was followed by Germany, China and France, according to advisory firm EY which conducted the survey.

"While the UK's position may surprise some, given current uncertainty, mergers and acquisitions activity during the period since the 2016 EU referendum has remained strong," EY said. Nearly three years after voters decided to take the country out of the European Union, the terms of Brexit remain unclear.

The threat of a no-deal shock to the economy was averted, at least for the time being, when Prime Minister Theresa May last week secured a Brexit delay until October 31. British foreign minister Jeremy Hunt met Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe yesterday to try to reassure him that Brexit should not affect Japanese investments in the country which employ hundreds of thousands of workers.

The EY survey showed China returned to the top five investment destinations despite con-

cerns about its trade war with the US. The US was a top destination for nine of the 10 most active cross-border investors, including China, EY said.

The fall in the pound since the Brexit referendum was not a major driver of foreign investment in Britain, it said.

Reuters



Deal hope: EU says it is ready for trade talks with Trump

EUROPE is ready to starts talks on a trade agreement with the United States and could conclude a deal before the end of the year, EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom said yesterday.

EU countries approved two negotiating mandates — one to cut tariffs on industrial goods, the other to make it easier for companies to show that products meet EU or US standards.

Of the 28 EU countries, only France voted against, while Belgium abstained. The EU governments agreed not to conclude negotiations until Washington removed tariffs on EU steel and aluminium and will suspend negotiations if the administration of US President Donald Trump (pictured) imposes new tariffs, such as on cars.

Philip Blenkinsop/Reuters

Tech giants face copyright bill as EU states back crackdown

Foo Yun Chee

GOOGLE will have to pay publishers for use of news snippets and Facebook must filter out protected content under new EU copyright rules aimed at ensuring fair compensation for creative industries.

EU governments yesterday backed the move launched by the European Commission two years ago to protect Europe's creative industries, which employ 11.7 million people in the bloc.

"When it comes to completing Europe's digital single market, the copyright reform is the missing piece of the puzzle," the Commission's president Jean-Claude Juncker said.

Under the new rules, Google

'When it comes to Europe's digital single market, copyright reform is the missing piece of the puzzle'

and other online platforms will have to sign licensing agreements with musicians, performers, authors, news publishers and journalists to use their work.

The European Parliament gave a green light last month to a proposal that has pitted Europe's creative industry against tech companies, internet activists and consumer groups.

Wikipedia blacked out several European sites in protest last month, while the change was opposed by Finland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden.

But 19 countries, including France and Germany, endorsed the revamp, while Belgium, Estonia and Slovenia abstained. Under the new



regime Google-owned You-Tube, Facebook's Instagram and other sharing platforms will have to install filters to prevent users from uploading copyrighted materials.

Google said the new rules would hurt Europe's crea-

Damage: Google said protecting content would hurt the digital

economy

tive and digital economies, while critics said it would hit cash-strapped smaller companies rather than the tech giants.

Poland said the overhaul was a step backwards as the filter requirement may lay the foundation for censorship.

The European Magazine Media Association, the European Newspaper Publishers' Association, the European Publishers Council, News Media Europe and independent music labels lobbying group Impala welcomed the move.

European Union countries have two years to transpose the copyright directive into national laws.

Reuters

IRISH INDEPENDENT Tuesday, April 16, 2019



Access all areas: College launches work placement

THIRTY leading Irish companies will provide an internship for up to 45 DCU Access students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds throughout this summer.

The scheme, established in 1989, was the first of its kind in Ireland. Companies taking part include PwC and Pigsback.com.

Gemma Treacy, DCU
Access student; former Dublin
footballer Jason Sherlock,
from DCU Educational Trust,
Seán McElwain, DCU Access
student; and Fiona Hudson,
DCU Access Service, are
pictured at the launch of
the programme in Dublin
City University's campus in
Glasnevin yesterday.
PHOTOGRAPHY: CONOR HEALY /

PICTURE IT PHOTOGRAPHY



Investment firm takes 4pc share in Smurfit's Gan

Ellie Donnelly

US investment firm Light Long Capital has snapped up 4pc of Dermot Smurfit Jr's Gan.

This comes after Gan said in March it was undertaking a review of various "strategic alternatives" open to it, in order to maximise value for shareholders.

These alternatives include the potential sale of the group, as well as the possibility of seeking an investor to acquire a non-controlling stake in the gambling software company.

Gan also said in March that it would consider the option of seeking a listing on a US stock exchange, in addition to, or in replacement of, the company's existing stock market quotations.

Intel clears way for \$4bn Irish plant to get planning nod

Gordon Deegan

THE way is now clear for Intel to get approval for its planned \$4bn (€3.53bn) facility at its Leixlip plant after it replied to all the queries that Kildare County Council had placed regarding its ambitious plan last month.

In a sign of the urgency that Intel is attaching to its planning application, the US multinational took just seven days to issue its response to the various queries over the manufacturing fabrication (FAB) plan.

This is in contrast to other applications for large industry where replies for further information can take months.

However, even if the chip giant secures planning permission next month, the decision is open for third parties to appeal to An Bord Pleanála which would put a final decision back towards the final quarter of this year.

Local farmer Thomas Reid has lodged an objection against the plan, the seventh Intel Leixlip application the farmer has objected to since 2012.

The previous objections were brought before An Bord Pleanála by Mr Reid.

The country's most high-profile planning activist, Peter Sweetman, has also lodged a submission on the plan. Mr Sweetman has previously



declared "I am a Nimby (Not In My Back Yard) and Ireland is my back yard."

In 2016, Intel secured planning permission for the first phase of its 'Fab' facility valued at \$4bn.

The new application, which is an extension of the original plan, represents an additional investment of \$4bn.

In total, the \$8bn investment – which will employ 6,000 construction workers at peak and 1,600 full time jobs on completion – will represent the largest single private investment in the history of the State on one project if given the go-ahead by Intel globally.

Consultants for Intel have told Kildare County Council that the firm has already

It would be the largest single private investment in the history of the State

invested \$12.5bn its site at Leixlip and the firm is seeking a 10-year planning permission for its new application.

The primary aspect of the council's further information request last month concerned an Eirgrid connection.

The council asked Intel to set out the cumulative effects of the plan and a new 220k sub-station to provide the electricity for the proposal.

However, in its further information response, Intel stressed that a new 220k sub-station is not required.

Intel said the new plant will be powered via existing Intel site grid infrastructure until such time as the EirGrid project is implemented and connected to the entire Intel facility.

Intel stressed that the EirGrid project is an improvement to an existing supply to facilitate secure and reliable supply to the Intel site and the wider community.

On the concerns expressed by Mr Reid, of Hedsor House, Blakestown, Carton, Maynooth, and other third parties to the development, consultants for Intel said the information it has provided in the application shows "that the legitimate concerns of agencies and of our neighbours have been anticipated and comprehensively addressed in the application".



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Trump advises Boeing to rebrand troubled 737 MAX

Susan Heavey

US President Donald Trump has urged Boeing to fix and "rebrand" its troubled 737 MAX jetliner following two fatal crashes even as US regulators continued to work with the planemaker and airlines over the grounded aircraft.

The Federal Aviation Administration has met representatives from American Airlines Group, United Airlines and Southwest Airlines over the next steps after more than 300 Boeing 737 MAXs were grounded worldwide.

FAA officials have also convened a joint review with aviation regulators from other countries, while federal prosecutors, the US Department of Transportation inspector general's office and a blue-ribbon panel are reviewing the plane's certification.

In an early-morning post on Twitter, Mr Trump, who owned the Trump Shuttle airline from 1989 to 1992 and is an aviation enthusiast, weighed in with advice.

"What do I know about branding, maybe nothing (but I did become President!), but if



I were Boeing, I would FIX the Boeing 737 MAX, add some additional great features, & REBRAND the plane with a new name. No product has suffered like this one. But again, what the hell do I know?"

The plane's grounding has also threatened the US summer travel season, with some airlines removing the 737 from their schedules through August and cancelling flights. American Airlines is cancel-

ling 115 flights a day through mid-August. The cancellations represent 1.5pc of its total flights each day of summer.

The US grounded the 737

Grounded:

American Airlines has cancelled hundreds of Boeing 737 MAX flights

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Max plane in mid-March after two deadly plane crashes, involving Ethiopian Airlines and Indonesia's Lion Air.

Boeing aims to finish fixing the planes in late April, and changes would have to be submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration and foreign regulators for approval.

American has 24 Max jets and says by extending cancellations through the summer it can plan more reliably for the peak season. It says it will work with customers to manage their travel plans.

Reuters/AP

ALL BOND INDEX 114.88

Profits leap to €2.1m at family-owned fish distributor HJ Nolan

Gordon Deegan

PROFITS at the main firm of fish distributor HJ Nolan increased by 81pc to €2.17m last year.

New accounts show that HJ Nolan (Dublin) Ltd recorded the sharp increase in profits as the owners paid themselves a €750,000 dividend in the 12 months to the end of March last year.

Last January the firm announced that it was merging with Co Mayobased Carr & Sons Seafood

Separate accounts for Carr and Sons Seafood Ltd show that it is also profitable - its most recent accounts for 2017 show that its profits increased by 47pc to €313,650.

At the end of December 2017, accumulated profits at Carr & Sons Seafood Ltd stood at €979,961 and the numbers it employed stood at 72.

In a year of considerable change for the family-owned HJ Nolan, the directors said that since the end of the year, the business has taken the decision to sell the lands

and building at its Dublin headquarters.

Plans were lodged last October by NTM ROI Seed Capital LP with An Bord Pleanála for 289 units of student accommodation at the HJ Nolan site on Dublin's Rathdown Rd.

In February, the appeals board gave the plan the go-ahead in spite of some local opposition concerned at the scale of student accommodation planned for the area.

Nolans is still a family affair with George Nolan, the grandson of founder Harry James, its chairman.

At the end of March 2018, the firm's accumulated profits totalled €5m. The company's shareholder funds totalled €5.4m, including €2.89m in cash.

The profit at the company last year takes account of non-cash depreciation costs of €144,668. The numbers employed fell from 48 to 44.

Pay to directors decreased from €329,225 to €278,156.

Pay last year was made up of remuneration of €176,837 and pension contributions of **€101.319.**

Japan130.34

Norway9.88

New Zealand.....1.72

Poland......4.41

Sth Africa......16.26

Thailand...... 36.98

Turkey.....

122.79

9.31

1.62

4.14

6.37

34.87

Markets

DUBLIN PRICES

TOP TEN STOCKS				COMPANY	€	CHG	COMPANY	€	CHG
Company €	CHG	%Chg	VolTraded	FBD	8.70	-0.06	T Produce	1.60	-0.05
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Aryzta1.24	0	.03 2.31	36655	Hibernia REIT					
Bofl6.06	0	.22 3.77	1874187	IFG Group		0.00	Aminex	0.01	0.00
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Paddy Power 73.62	2	.20 3.08	38509	Irish Resident					
Glanbia17.52	0	.02 0.11	246598	REIT			Kenmare	2.32	0.00
C&C 3.34	0	.02 0.45	183260	Irish Cont	5.00	0.01			
Kingspan44.54	0	.54 1.23	254962	Kingspan	44.54	0.54	Ormonde	0.05	0.00
COMPANY €	CHG	COMPANY	€ CHG	Mincon	1.27	0.00			
Abbey14.50	0.00	CPL		Origin Ent	5.44	0.04			
				Pdy Power	73.62	2.20	Ovoca	0.09	0.00
Allied Irish Banks 4.22	-0.03	Dalata	5.99 0.05	Permanent TSB	1.28	0.03			
C&C3.34	0.02	Datalex	0.85 0.00	Petroneft	0.01	0.00	Providence	0.15	-0.01
INTERNATIONAL	SHAR	RES				Ir	rish Interest, o	quotes in	us\$
COMPANY PRICE	CHG	COMPANY	PRICE CHG	COMPANY	PRICE	CHG	COMPANY	PRICE	CHG
Abbott Lab77.66	-0.35	Amazon	1831.73 -11.33	Exxon	80.74	-0.18	Hewlett P	20.04	-0.17
AbbVie80.58	-0.20	Apple	198.56 -0.32	Facebook	178.28	-0.82	IBM	143.51	-0.84
Activision Blizzard46.66	-0.62	Bostn Sci	37.74 0.01	M&T Bank	162.63	-5.13	Icon	137.42	0.33
AIG45.79	-0.40	Coca-Cola	46.87 0.13	General Electric	8.90	-0.11	Intel	56.03	-0.39
Allergan143.20	- 1.75	CRH	33.02 0.01	Google	1216.19	-1.68	Microsoft	120.78	-0.18
Amarin18.40	-0.59	Ericsson	9.71 -0.16	Goldman Sachs	200.93	-6.91	Novartis	80.81	0.57
COMMODITIES									
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Lead1925			1927	Platinum		889.7	78	891.	46

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Gold.

Oil (Brent)..

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Bloomberg

LONDON PRICES FTSE 250 19,807.09 195.38 COMPANY COMPANY COMPANY COMPANY Lloyds TSB. **IRISH SHARES** NOLOGY .5688.00 72.00 .65.17 0.37 Abbey.. ..1235.00 0.00 RBOS.. .262.50 1.90 HEALTH CARE EQUIPMENT ..5994.00 6.00 Aminex... .1.25 0.08 Smith Nph1481.50 -11.00 Stan Chart.. .671.00 -1.20 BofI (Eur)6.02 0.19 GlaxoSmith... .1550.00 -1.20 INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION BEVERAGES .1.34 0.02 Cairn Homes543.40 0.80 Brit Airways. . 3120.50 5.00 . 6.13 0.00 Diageo... Conrov.. **REAL ESTATE** LIFE INSURANCE 2520.00 7.00 CHEMICALS . 418.70 0.70 .6898.00 -18.00 Brit Land .. .606.80 -0.40 Johnson Mat...... 3384.00 23.00 .287.50 0.60 Glanbia (Eur).. ... 17.47 -0.14 LgI & Gen. Reckitt Benc...... 5823.00-82.00 .333.70 -2.30 .. 1702.00 30.00 Hamrsn. Grafton Group 889.50 9.00 Prudential. ..271.80 2.80 ..213.40 3.40 Stan Life. CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS Land Secs. .926.80 0.80 ..0.09 0.00 MEDIA Persimmon 2312.00 27.00 Karelian. .2.65 0.00 Liberty Intl. .103.25 0.80 ..132.35 1.50 ITV ELECTRICITY 201.25 2.25 Kenmare. 835.80 -2.20 Pearson Smurfit Kappa..... 2299.00 -11.00 Drax Group......367.00 3.80 SOFTWARE AND COMPUTER .1648.50 8.00 ...241.30 1.40 Scot & Sthrn1137.00 3.00 ... 885.20 13.20 Sage Group708.40 2.80 UDG Healthcare.... 641.00 0.00 FIXED LINE TELECOMS 3 35 0 00 Ang Amer.... . 2165.00-44.50 BT Group227.35 2.5011.88 0.12 Antofagasta..... ...1002.50 -20.00 Kerry...... 97.55 -0.65 FOOD AND DRUG RETAILERS330.00 -2.45 BHP Billiton126.40 0.85 **IRISH INTEREST** ...224.40 2.40 Morrison W..... Kazakhmys712.20 -26.20 ..162.50 0.00 Celtic FC1753.50 -39.50 Sainsbury..... ...234.10 -0.9069.00 -4.00 First Deriv......3130.00 45.00 Rio Tinto4702.50 -69.00 ...249.30 2.20 Tesco Pers Gold 0.23 0.00 TOBACCO Glencore Xstrata ...330.00 -2.45 ...1.25 0.00 Petrel Res FOOD PRODUCERS MORII F TFI FCOMS 3123.50 34.50 FT100 SHARES AB Food 2541.00 14.00 Vodafone142.50 1.96 Tate& Lyle735.00 7.20 .. 2515.00 8.50 Imperial.... OIL AND GAS PRODUCTS AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE Unilever......4346.00 -18.00 ...569.90 -0.70 BAE Systems...... 504.00 -4.80 TRAVEL AND LEISURE **GAS WATER AND UTILITIES** Cairn Energy 166.30 -1.20 Rolls Royce......891.00 -0.80 ..109.05 -0.20 Ryl D Shell A...... 2468.00 -11.00 Centrica3984.00 18.00 Carnival.... Smiths Grp......1521.50 2.50 Nat Grid 820.40 3.10 NONLIFE INSURANCE ... 4839.00 6.50 Interc Htl255.80 2.60 Royal & Sun538.00 1.80 Kingfisher..... ...167.68 1.72 ...278.80 0.50 PHARMACEUTICALS & BIOTECH-.....655.90 -2.80 M&S.... Whitbread 4835.00 -4.00 **FOREIGN EXCHANGE**

HK DIr....

Can. DIr...

Aus. DIr.

Sing. DIr ...

Czech Kr....

Hung. For..... 320.35

Pol. Zl..

MARKET EURO

D. Krone 7.4647

Sw. Franc1.13477

Sw. Krona...... 10.467

Jap. Yen.....126.59

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Close

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Nor. Krona 9.6054 9.5895 Turk. Lira

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TOURIST EURO

Canada..

Sweden....

Denmark..

Switzerland1.16

Australia.....1.62

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Lifestyle



Don't retire — rewire

How do you fill those large new chunks of free time that retirement brings? In the first of a three-part series, **Ailin Quinlan** talks to the experts about the tried and tested strategies of preparing for life after the workplace

t is surely what we are all aiming for but not something everyone achieves. What is 'it'? A long and happy life, of course. For those that do attain this, research shows that a sense of purpose, a mental challenge and a social network of real people are key.

Our working life fulfils all three for many of us — but what happens when we retire?

That's why most of us need to start planning for retirement at least 18 months before exiting the workforce, says Derek Bell, who heads up the Retirement Planning Council of Ireland.

Bell recommends attending the Council's retirement planning course about 18 months before your departure date to learn both about the challenges ahead and tried and tested strategies for preparing for them.

Begin — where possible — your transition into retirement by reducing your workload to a four-day, and then to a three-day week at least one year before leaving the workplace, he advises. If you're working flat out one day and not the next, retirement can feel like falling off a cliff, so it's sensible to acclimatise.

While financial planning for retirement is important, Bell acknowledges, the real problem for most people is all that extra time, and how to manage it.



Part one of a four-part series running this week in the Irish Independent

1.....

"Most people are out of the home for a minimum of 50 hours a week while working. This means that in retirement, they have 50 hours to fill every week for the rest of their lives. You really need to prepare for this."

Twelve months before retiring, visualise what a retirement week will be like and start thinking about how to fill whole chunks of time, advises Bell. "When you take work out of your day it's very easy to lose structure," he says, "so plan activities which take up chunks of time, for example to go swimming in the morning."

Don't retire — rewire, says Dr Mark Rowe, a GP who specialises in lifestyle medicine. Rowe believes employees should start preparing for retirement up to five years before they leave work.

If you get fulfilment from your job or career, start considering how you might continue to contribute to society once you leave the workforce, he suggests — explore volunteering or mentoring opportunities for using your wisdom and knowledge, or investigate the possibility of part-time work. All of these can provide meaning and a sense of purpose to your day.

About 12 months before you leave the workforce, start thinking about your physical fitness and agility too.

Bell suggests testing your agility by lying

on the floor and trying to get into a sitting position without using your hands. It's also worth determining how long you can balance on one leg. And, if you're finding it increasingly difficult to open jars, despite the fact that you don't have arthritis or an injury, seek advice on how to build muscle in your hands — you're going to continue to need them in the years ahead.

"Exercise is a great way to stay physically strong and agile. If you don't already have a good exercise regime in place, start building one into your day," advises Dr Rowe.

Ideally your exercise regime should incorporate two 15-minute strength training sessions a week along with aerobic exercise such as walking or jogging for a minimum of 30 minutes a day, five days a week, he says.

Try also to work some form of integrative exercise such as yoga or Pilates into your fitness regime, adds Rowe, to ensure you "move plenty" during your day.

Dr Fiona O'Reilly, a family doctor with an interest in lifestyle medicine, recommends investing in a Fitbit to track and improve your walking speed in advance of retirement or to join a gym or sign up for dancing classes as a sociable and fun exercise.

It's also important, she says, to plan ahead in terms of filling your days with activities, hobbies and interests which you enjoy and which are of benefit to you. If possible, she advises, avoid becoming a full-time babysitter for grandchildren.

"Full-time childcare is very demanding," she says, adding that for grandparents, there appears to be a connection between a full-time childcare role and higher blood pressure levels and a sensation of burnout.

This is also the time to have a full health NCT, advises Dr Rowe, who explains this should incorporate a test of your cardiac risk factors, your blood pressure and a waist-circumference check.

"Have your abdominal circumference checked — for men it should be around 37" and for women it should be under 32," he explains.

"Have blood tests to check for cholesterol and also blood sugar levels to see if you may be

If possible, avoid becoming a full-time babysitter for grandchildren

pre-diabetic. Another test is CRP which tests for inflammation in the body."

Men can opt to have their prostate checked and women are advised to have the CA125 screening test for uterine and ovarian cancer, says Dr O'Reilly, who suggests also having a Dexa scan to check for any signs of osteoporosis, and a calcium screening test to indicate any problems with cardiac health.

If you drink alcohol, monitor your consumption patterns a year or two before retirement. If you have a tendency to drink a lot, or to drink alone, reduce your consumption — and stop drinking alone before you retire, Dr Rowe advises.

"This is a big pitfall. It's important to be aware of your alcohol consumption as this can increase dramatically when you find you don't

Continued on Page 28

'Most of us describe ourselves by what we do rather than who we are'

Continued from Page 27

have to get up and go to work in the morning," warns Bell.

Now is also a good time to assess your diet, and to begin gradually introducing improvements, so that you have good nutrition habits by the time you finish work.

Suggests dietitian Sarah Keogh: "Look after your bones by eating foods rich in calcium like yogurt, cheese. Take a vitamin D supplement to help you absorb calcium. This keeps your bones strong and means you are less likely to break something if you fall."

Keogh also recommends the regular consumption of oily fish — salmon, mackerel, herring, sardines for Omega 3 and B Vitamins which are important for brain health. Eat seeds for fibre and to aid digestion. These also contain magnesium which is crucial for the healthy functioning of the body.

Last but not least, be aware that not everybody welcomes the prospect of retirement. A sudden loss in a person's sense of identity can be detrimental to mental health following retirement, Bell warns.

"Most of us describe ourselves by what we do rather than who we are," he says.

"Once we retire we can no longer say what we are — so it's really important to think about what your identity will be when you retire."

Be aware of any signs of fear and depression, advises Dr Rowe: "If you notice that any discussion of retirement brings on a sense of anxiety or of feeling down, of not wanting to talk about retirement or to discuss what you plan to do, these are signs that you may be feeling negative about the prospect," he comments.

Anxiety or depression about retiring can also manifest through physical symptoms, advises Dr O'Reilly.

"Physical aches and pains can be a sign of being affected by a low mood," she observes. "I've had patients who have come

Want to raise feminist boys? Then celebrate their manhood too

Gender equality is not a lesson to teach only to boys, it's a trait to be modelled and encouraged from day one, in everyone, writes mother of three sons, Arlene Harris

hroughout my life I've had the good fortune of being surrounded by wonderful men; firstly my father, a strong character for whom family was paramount. While known for his larger-than-life personality and somewhat irreverent outlook, he was devoted to my mother whom he unequivocally regarded as his equal — and vice versa.

Being an only daughter, I grew up sandwiched between two brothers and we were reared in exactly the same way — none of us made to feel inferior or superior because of our gender.

Fast forward to adulthood and my own relationship is also based on equality — both my husband and I work, we do our fair share around the house and parenting is something we work at together. It's not always 50/50 or perfect but we do our best.

Of course, I've had dealings with misogynistic men throughout my life, but as family goes, I've been fortunate.

Gender equality was such a normal aspect of my life that when it came to bringing up our three sons — Cailan (20), Tadhg (18) and Rodhan (14) — my husband and I didn't decide how we were going to raise them, nor did we have a discussion about how important it was for them to grow up believing women are their equals. This wasn't because we thought it unimportant, but simply for both of us, it was a given.

Some would say we are a family of feminists but I prefer to see us as a family who places everyone on a level playing field, be it through gender, race, colour, creed, sexuality or any one of the differences which make us all unique.

I remember telling my boys when they were young that some people actually think they are better than others because they

My husband and I didn't have a discussion about how important it was for them to grow up believing women are their equals... for both of us, it was a given have a different skin colour or come from another country — they looked at me with incredulity wondering what could make anyone believe something so ridiculous.

By the same token, they never saw themselves as being any better (or worse) than girls — they were all just kids. As toddlers, I bought them a wooden dolls house with little figures which occasionally were used in the traditional family setting, but more often than not, the house would be invaded by dinosaurs or used as a garage for their countless cars and trucks.

At mother and toddler group, they each went through a phase of making a beeline for the dolls prams — again, these weren't used in the conventional sense of taking the baby for a stroll, but became sought-after machines in competitive pram racing sessions.

The nature or nurture debate has long been raging and having studied and worked as a Montessori teacher in Britain, I believed, like Maria Montessori did, that both aspects are relevant to a child's learning — the environment around a child is nurturing, while nature comes from within.

I could see first-hand that my boys were not instinctively put off by supposed girls' toys, but they did play with them in a stereotypically male way.

My boys also had a toy kitchen and as they got older, we bought them their own cooking utensils so they could get involved with baking and cooking.

They regularly saw their dad and granddad preparing dinner, so there was never an inkling that being in the kitchen was a job suited to one gender or another.

Today, they are all dab hands in the kitchen, the older two (of college age) in a phase of throwing together whatever is the quickest to prepare, while my 14-year-old thinks nothing of getting out a recipe book and cooking something from scratch.

With the #metoo movement still making headlines, it now seems strange looking back that neither my husband nor I ever thought about making sure the boys knew how to behave towards the opposite sex; we simply and instinctively raised them to be respectful of everyone — and as far as I'm aware, the message has sunk in.



Of course, as parents, we all do our best to set a good example and ensure our children grow up to be caring, responsible adults. But sometimes, no matter how good our intentions, getting the right message across can be difficult. Young people are bombarded left, right and centre with conflicting information and images from which we wish we could protect them.

Smart phones are an everyday essential for teenagers and no matter how many parental controls and restrictions we impose, kids will find a way around them.

My eldest son is almost 21, so smart phones were just emerging when he was young. He didn't have unrestricted access to the internet as a young teenager, but being of curious mind and ability, very quickly became much more adept and computer literate than we were and it took us a while to realise that he was able to access a lot more than we gave him credit for.

Facebook was a big thing when he was in first year of secondary school and he was only allowed to use it if we knew his password and had access to the account. This caused some outrage on his behalf but it was parental control or nothing.

This encouraged a conversation about the notion of 'friends' because half of the 1,000 people he amassed within a couple of weeks would be unrecognisable to him if he passed

them on the street — so we did a purge of any of the older or unknown people who were clogging up his friend list and might not have his best interests at heart.

Although slightly irritated, I think he was somehow glad of my interference as it put a halt to the race for the most 'friends'.

Aside from the feelings of anxiety social media can evoke, pornography was and still is a big problem for children accessing the internet. It can be found at the touch of a button, assaulting young eyes and minds with images and distorted ideas of what relationships and bodies should look like.

So it is more important than ever that parents' voices are clearer than anything they may see online.

It's not easy talking to teenagers about these things, but no matter how difficult the subject, I have found that it's absolutely crucial to broach the subjects of sex, porn, rape, abortion, sexuality and the many other topics which would have been brushed under the carpet by parents a generation ago.

I tackled these subjects as soon as I thought the boys would come across them, and I'm so glad I did.

While they may have been embarrassed at first, they realised that I was going to talk about these issues anyway, making sure they knew that there are right and wrong ways of

IRISH INDEPENDENT Tuesday, April 16, 2019



Plan ahead: Dr Mark Rowe advises preparing five years before retirement

in complaining of severe backache and pain around the body in the months approaching their retirement, and on investigation, the cause has proved to be psychological."

If you suspect the onset of low mood or depression around the prospect of retiring, talk to your GP and/or seek counselling says O'Reilly. Remember, a mild anti-depressant can help, she says.



Tomorrow: Part Two
How to keep relationships
on track when you retire



behaving, regardless of what the online world deems acceptable.

Of course, talking about sex with your child can be cringe-making for both parties. I first broached the subject with my eldest when he was about 10. I can't exactly remember how the subject came up but answering his questions, I casually imparted the relevant information, while I was cooking and he was sorting his football cards.

I divulged what seemed necessary at the time and asked him if he had any questions — "Yeah," he answered. "Do you think I should swap Wayne Rooney for Steven Gerrard?"

At the time, I thought he hadn't taken in anything I said, but it became clear later on that he had, but that he just hadn't been too bothered by it.

When sex education classes came about in school, none of it was a big deal for him or for his brothers, who learned the facts of life through osmosis and asking questions here and there. We always answered questions as honestly as was appropriate for their age.

I've always been one for talking things out, so as they got older and more aware of the world around them and the differences between the sexes, we would regularly discuss topics which were in the news — often involving certain behaviours between men and women. Because no topic is taboo, they

have always been able to debate and give their opinions — the abortion referendum, LGBT equality, divorce, recent rape trials — all of these we discussed at length. I have been proud and reassured each time to realise that we have raised three fine young men with good internal moral compasses.

They believe that everyone is equal and should be afforded the same rights. They have respect for people of both genders and, importantly, know to expect that same respect for themselves from future partners.

But while reinforcing the message that men and women are equal is essential, it's also important to recognise that we are different in many ways and should celebrate those distinctions rather than insist they don't exist.

So, if I'm attempting something which requires a bit more brawn, one of my menfolk will usually offer to take over — whether it's opening a tightly sealed jar or carrying a heavy box — and they will always, without question, rush to take grocery bags from me and put away their contents as I return from the shop.

This is nothing to do with them believing they are more capable but simply recognising they are physically stronger than I am.

By the same token, I'm also more emotional than the men in my life and well up over films, pieces of music or a sad story. My other half also has a soft side and has been known to become misty eyed on occasion.

This is important for boys to see as it shows them that not only is it okay for men to be sad, but it's normal and healthy. So, while they definitely don't get teary on a regular basis like their mum, if faced with a sad situation, they don't have a problem with showing their emotions either.

Looking back, we were quite strict with the boys — having both worked in the restaurant business we never allowed them to run wild when we were eating out — and if they couldn't sit still and behave, we would leave.

Same went for the word 'no' — if we said something wasn't possible, we both stuck to our guns. I remember my middle son having a tantrum over a lollipop when he was three or four. I brought him into another room and told him to scream as loud as he wanted for as long as he wanted. Angry wails ensued but subsided after a while and when he came out, I told him how lucky he was that he never had to endure that again as all he ended up with was a sore throat from shouting and still no lollipop — he never bothered with another hissy fit.

This parenting style again wasn't something we decided on, but it just evolved that way and would have been exactly the same whether we had sons or daughters.

Parents of boys are often urged to make a defined plan to raise their sons as feminists, but while this is important, I feel it shouldn't be about feminism at all. Sure, boys need to be taught to treat girls nicely and equally but the same needs to apply to girls about the boys in their lives. The message should be to raise all of our kids to be nice to each other.

Of course there are nasty men out there, but there are also some nasty women too. There are just as many wonderful fathers, sons, brothers and husbands as there are wives, daughters, sisters and mothers.

Our children are the future and in order to stamp out the feelings of fear and division which is spreading like wildfire across the globe, I believe we need to do our utmost to teach not only our boys, but also our girls to treat each other with kindness and respect.



Family Life Bill Linnane

Who needs Easter camps when you have Irish history?

nd so we come to the Easter holidays, when we pause and reflect on the greatest martyr of all — the average parent. I would have written this column several weeks ago if I had known the Easter break was coming, but like most people I had no awareness of it until I noted my kids were at home all day and no truancy officer was knocking on the door to ask where they are.

No school holiday is as slippery as the Easter midterm, suddenly iumping out of the school year when we least expect it, like a panto villain. Oh no! It's the midterm break! Now I have to spend time with my children rather than forcing them on some poor teacher who thought their job would be more like *Dead* Poets Society and a lot less like The Shawshank Redemption. The Easter midterm is able to sneak up because it is based on the Paschal lunar calendar, because obviously a busy family will always have time to follow both the Gregorian and Julian calendars, despite the fact we can't remember to attend dental appointments.

But Easter is here now and we have to deal with it in the best way we can — by trying to farm out our children to some manner of activity camp. Naturally, there are people out there who do track the ebb and flow of the moon, because all the camps were booked up. Googling to no avail, you start to wonder if there is even a local terror cell that might be looking for recruits to bring on manoeuvres in the woods; but there were no options left, so we were stuck doing that most dreaded of tasks — entertaining our kids. So we turn to history. All of Ireland has been a battlefield at some point, so there are plenty of sites to visit where my kids can learn about decapitations, sieges and plague. Our most recent trip through Ireland's bloody past was at Cahir Castle, a sort of hipster outing for those of us who see the Rock of Cashel as too mainstream since the British queen visited it.

Cahir castle offers a full, immersive historical experience from the get-go by only accepting cash. Apparently, they are getting a card reader soon, but as the castle has been there since the 13th century, I could see why they might not have a sense of urgency about such matters. Our tour guide walked us through the castle's history, with plenty of gore-soaked facts to keep the kids engaged. Afterwards, we were free to roam the buildings, and this is where it became such a great day out. The site is like an MC Escher etching, all hidden corridors, machicolations, murder holes and winding stairs. Best of all, there was only one way in and one way out. So I could then let them go free range, scampering off into high towers, dungeons and battlements, safe in the knowledge that if Cahir Castle could survive centuries of attack, it would probably survive my children, and if one of them made a break for it I could just drop the portcullis.

In 1650, Oliver Cromwell and his New Model Army — the original British stag party — arrived in Cahir, and sent a note requesting

If Cahir Castle could survive centuries of attack, it would probably survive my children

that the occupants, the Butlers, leave forthwith, which they duly did, only to retake it a little over a decade later. The Butlers know, as all parents do, that when you are outnumbered and facing your gaf getting wrecked, simply head out for a while.

It gives me a warm glow to find places like this, not because it instils a love and understanding of Irish history in young minds, but because it is both cheap (entry for us all was less than a tenner) and it tires them out, the main goals of any trip with kids. The park next to the castle even has a sword stuck in a stone, which they spent a good 20 minutes attempting to extract, as I sat back, sipping a coffee, saying, 'Oh you nearly had it there, give it another try and really put some effort into it now'. Everyone was asleep by 7pm that night. Who needs activity camps when you have the OPW?



Royal treatment: Cahir Castle is the perfect place for kids to burn some energy

iLifestyle Time Out

Your Stars





March 21-April 20

Keep it real, even as you use your magination. Economy with the truth is not advisable, even though you are skilful at playing both ends against the middle. A major love choice is looming and the most obvious option is not necessarily the best one. Be daring and follow your heart.

Call now for more info 1560 476 081 €1.27 per min. (Daily)* 1560 475 021 €1.27 per min. (Weekly)

Gemini

May 22-June 21

Take what is on offer even though the object of your heart's desire may be running rings around you. Forget ultimatums and distract yourself. Forgiveness may well be needed, so don't be too proud. Keep on believing and listen to your heart, Listen to your dreams too and follow your vision for love.

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Leo July 23-August 23

This is a sexy time so do not squander your opportunities. Release can be a bittersweet experience; but if a letting go process guarantees your personal freedom at last, it is surely to be embraced. Be quite ruthless and

respected. Call now for more info 1560 476 085 €1.27 per min. (Daily)* 1560 475 027 €1.27 per min. (Weekly)*

disciplined about what no longer fits,

and always watch that your heart is

Libra Sept 23-Oct 23

Work hard by all means, but play hard too; if not stress may zap and drain you. You really need to get the balance right. Love opportunities abound; but you must use discernment to find the correct path. Of course you have to honour your commitments, even though you may well be overloaded.

Call now for more info 1560 476 087 €1.27 per min. (Daily)* 1560 475 029 €1.27 per min. (Weekly)*

Sagittarius Nov 22-Dec 20

Keep your feet on the ground as you go about your daily business. Prepare to shock and put a few noses out with your love choices. Romantically there is a surprise coming. Indeed, your choice may surprise even you. Mixing pleasure and business is actually advisable just now. Finances will improve.

Call now for more info 1560 476 089 €1,27 per min. (Daily)* 1560 475 031 €1.27 per min. (Weekly)

Aquarius Jan 21-Feb 19

News you hear on the grapevine will shock and excite you. Your ability to succeed in love is at a premium. Brace yourself for frolics and dress to impress. Flirty fun brightens the week ahead. In your relationships, you may feel like you are teetering on the brink of a disaster · you are not.

Call now for more info 1560 476 091 €1.27 per min. (Daily)* 1560 475 132 €1.27 per min. (Weekly)*

Taurus April 21-May 21

Your positive energy should begin to make an impact across the board. Do not get carried away with unnecessary worries about your love life. Some disappointments are inevitable, so keep the faith and hold onto your perspective. Vibes may be uncertain and unnerving; but trust your destiny at this time.

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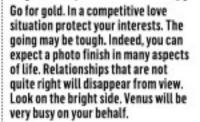
Cancer

June 22-July 22 A love decision is looming and it

might be right to leave the past behind once and for all. With new connections do not waste precious moments and certainly do not miss a golden opportunity. Socially, bravado and cheekiness will pay. This is a great time to reconnect with faces from the past.

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Virgo August 24-Sept 22



Call now for more info 1560 476 086 €1.27 per min. (Daily)* 1560 475 028 €1.27 per min. (Weekly)*

Scorpio Oct 24-Nov 21

Be systematic and organized. To give your love life a chance you must first sort out your worries. You will be attracted to unusual offers and you will surprise a few people with your choices. In love, keep your secrets. Do not tell anyone who you have got your eye on. Ditch time wasters.

Call now for more info 1560 476 088 €1.27 per min. (Daily)* 1560 475 030 €1.27 per min. (Weekly)*

Capricorn Dec 21-Jan 20

With the love stuff, know what you want and do your worst to make sure you achieve your dreams. Of course consider the feelings of others in the process. Your thoughtfulness will impress the right lover, so do not fret about things if there is a queue forming. The tide is turning in your love life.

Call now for more info 1560 476 090 €1.27 per min. (Daily)* 1560 475 032 €1.27 per min. (Weekly)*

Pisces Feb 20-March 20

You may feel somewhat challenged on the relationship front. If something is not functioning or flowing properly, you must take note. You must be careful. Get the balance right and do not let anyone walk all over you. Uranus action makes you really lively, but do not make snappy decisions.

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Question Time

- 1. What river flows through the town of Ennis?
- 2. The American inventor John J Loud obtained the first patent for what everyday object?
- 3. What is the collective noun for a group of bats?
- 4. Which baseball team are the subject of the 2011 film 'Moneyball'?
- 5. Which musician's backing band was called The Mothers of Invention?

rgddr7 colony or cloud 4. The Oakland Athletics 5. Frank Answers 1. River Fergus 2. The ballpoint pen 3. A

Who am I?



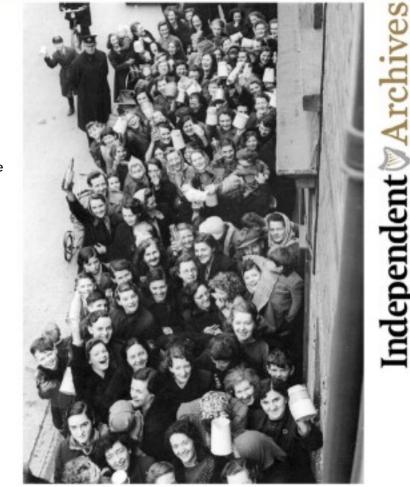
Answer at bottom of page

FLASH BACK

Women and children queuing for milk in Dublin in the 1960s.

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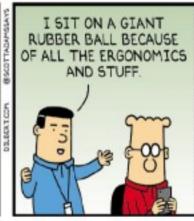
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Dilbert







Curly Wee

Outside the Diamond Merchant's shop warmed by the brazier's heat.

The old Sheep talked with Orace Owl in grateful tones and sweet.

"But, oh, your hoot sounds hoarse!" she cried. Her bleat expressed concern

"I hope you haven't caught a cold? How does your forehead burn?"



The Owl put down the bell he held the bell. I need not say.

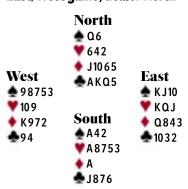
With which he should have summoned help if Thieves came down his way.

"You're right... my feathered brow IS hot!" He gave a tiny screech.

And did not see the Sheep remove the bell beyond his reach!

Bridge

East/West game; dealer North



The contract at both tables in this teams-of-four match was Four Hearts played by South.

At the first table, West led the eight of spades - second highest from a suit not headed by an honour. Declarer tried the queen, covered with the king, and South withheld the ace. He withheld a second ace on the king of hearts continuation, but rose with the top trump on the heart that followed. Ace of spades and a spade ruff left declarer able to count on ten tricks, and so offered opponents a trump trick in order to get on with the next board.

Declarer at the other table did not have such an easy time, as West led off with the ten of hearts, overtaken, perforce, by East. South did well to duck, and correctly won the trump continuation. He could see that if he tried a spade to the queen, and East had the king and cashed a trump, nine tricks would be his

So, instead of trying to ruff a spade in dummy, he elected to ruff three diamonds in hand - effectively reversing the dummy. South cashed the ace of diamonds, entered dummy in clubs and ruffed a diamond. Another club to dummy was followed by a second diamond ruff. A third club entry to the table allowed the last diamond to be ruffed. South cashed his ace of spades, then played the jack of clubs, not caring whether it won or lost. If it did, that was the tenth trick. If it was ruffed with the master trump, dummy's last trump would be trick number ten instead.

Maureen Hiron

Chess

apolo-

Curly Wee archive is from over 50 ye for any rare breaks in its sequencing

*The gies



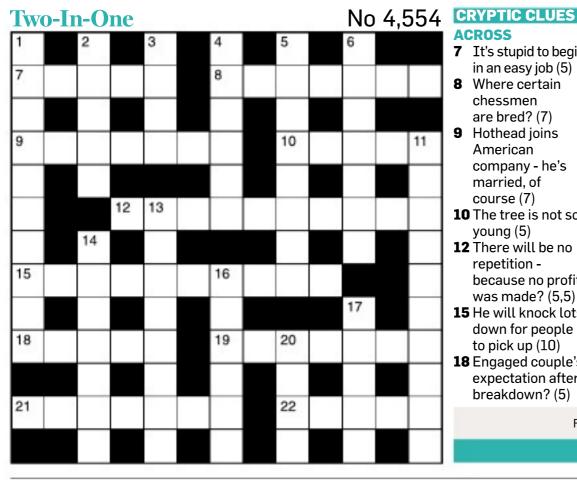
White, to move, first makes a preparatory move before delivering the coup de grace. How? Tal - Mascarinas Lvov 1981 1.Bc7! opening the queen's diagonal.

After 1....Qxc7,

mating.

2.Rh8+ and 3.Qh5+

Shane Lowry **SIMA OHW**



ACROSS

- **7** It's stupid to begin in an easy job (5)
- Where certain chessmen are bred? (7)
- 9 Hothead joins American company - he's married, of course (7)
- 10 The tree is not so young (5)
- **12** There will be no repetition because no profit was made? (5,5) 15 He will knock lots
- to pick up (10) 18 Engaged couple's expectation after breakdown? (5)

down for people

- 19 Naval sword wounded girl (7)
- **21** There could be no **11** Telephone sense in unity (7) 22 It produces a fine

sort (5)

- **DOWN** 1 Out of which love shines? (5,5)
- 2 Flower or kitchenware given to youth leader (5)
- 3 Wager article is letter in Greek (4)
- 4 The captain's game? (6)
- 5 A number are too old for the scope insurance risks (8)

- 6 The chief road to progress (7)
- teacher he's needed in the circus (10)
- 13 Lied over wicked person (8)
- 14 Looked angry when milk producer got in sleigh (7)
- **16** The tidiest street on the French Riviera? (6)
- 17 The manuscript about beer is not for the fair sex (5)
- 20 Thanks ship for news agency (4)

SIMPLE CLUES

ACROSS

- **7** Freshwater fish (5)
- 8 Ingredient (7)
- 9 Contrary (7)
- **10** Deserves (5)
- **12** Shelter (10)
- 15 Singer (10) **18** Healthy (5)
- 19 Local (7)
- 21 Sailor (7)

22 Goodbye (5)

- **DOWN 1** Transmits (10)
 - 2 Bisect (5)
 - 3 Burn slightly (4)
 - 4 Discover (6)
 - 5 Fortifications (8)
 - **6** Region (7)
 - 11 Father
 - Christmas (5,5)
 - 13 Inmate (8)
 - **14** Ask (7)
 - **16** Go to bed (6)
 - **17** Pungent (5)
 - 20 Fruit (4)

YESTERDAY'S CRYPTIC SOLUTION

YESTERDAY'S SIMPLE SOLUTION

Across: 7 Fillet; 8 Head-on; 10 Bewitch; 11 Force; 12 Arum; 13 Ether; 17 Facts; 18 Shoe; 22 Might; 23 Notable; 24 Things; 25 Hearts. Down: 1 Off-beat; 2 Blown up; 3 Berth; 4 Set free; 5 Adorn; 6 Andes; 9 Whetstone; 14 Cartage; 15 The bare; 16 Release; 19 Smith; 20 Again; 21 Utter.

Across: 7 Circle; 8 Ground; 10 Lacking; 11 Above; 12 Idea; 13 Donor; 17 Cloak; 18 Mesh; 22 Felon; 23 Uranium; 24 Evenly; 25 Scampi. Down: 1 Acclaim; 2 Proceed; 3 Plain; 4 Creator; 5 Tutor; 6 Adder; 9 Ignoramus; 14 Blankly; 15 Mediums; 16 Chamois; 19 After; 20 Alter; 21 Larch.

For today's solutions text CRYPTIC or SIMPLE followed by the clue to 53307 (eg SIMPLE 1 down to 53307)

€0.60 per text. Network charges vary. SP Phonovation Ltd. Helpline 0818 217100.

No 16,752 **Twinplex** 6 8 10 11 12 13 14 15 18 16 19 20 21 22 23 24

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 4 Financially, and otherwise, it helps you to stand on your own feet (7) Gets excited or reverts to
- established customs (6) Revised list for a flower-seller (7)
- 10 This club is much patronised by gymnasts (6) 11 Solid lump of
- dripping (6) 12 Looking angry, being let down (8)
- **18** I plan too haphazardly but it's a matter of choice (8)
- 20 It's nonsense to compel a

- number (6) 21 Destroy a grave,
- perhaps (6) 22 Broadcast a
- tirade, perhaps (7) 23 Indiscreet bank official? (6)
- 24 Lie and ruse may obtain free time (7)

DOWN

- 1 This piece needs rewriting to make it clear (7)
- 2 The opposite of praise? Well, no! (3,4)

3 Go off to find

- another partner (6) **5** It expresses assent and no
- mistake! (3,5) 6 On a winding road

it shows skill (6) **7** Throw the French

- in a fortress (6) 13 What the bride says afterwards
- won't be in church! (8)
- 14 Necessarily involves a silent reformation (7) 15 Term that's
- perhaps (7) **16** Are not different, only decorated (6)

musical or legal

- 17 Refrains from being so avid, perhaps (6)
- 19 I spoil the games, figuratively speaking (6)

SIMPLE CLUES **ACROSS DOWN**

4 Weighing device (7)

- 8 Awakens (6)
- **9** Flower seller (7)
- 10 Asian nationality (6)
- 11 Frozen spike (6)
- 12 Moving down (8)
- 18 Left to choice (8)
- 20 Foolish talk (6)
- **21** Damage (6) **22** Emit (7)
- 23 Clerk (6)

17 Snipes; 19 Fated; 21 Bid.

15 Musical tempo (7) 16 Decorated (6)

13 Worshipper of icons (8)

17 Evades (6)

14 Involves (7)

1 Item (7)

3 Mend (6)

7 Fort (6)

2 Lose power (3,4)

5 Adequate (3,5)

6 Dexterous (6)

- **19** Pictures (6)
- 24 Relaxation time (7) YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS Across: 1 Black Prince; 9 Lap; 10 Chopstick; 11 Comma; 13 Felt ill; 14 Market; 16 Praise; 18 Italian; 19 Flesh; 20 Exact spot; 21 Ban; 22 Dead as a dodo. Down: 2 Lip; 3 Cocoa; 4 Proofs; 5 Insular; 6 Criticise; 7 Blackmailer; 8 Skilled hand; 12 Marmalade; 15 Evicted;

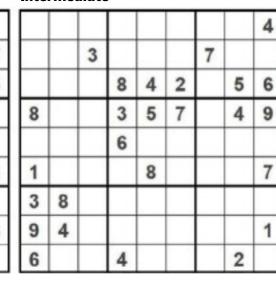
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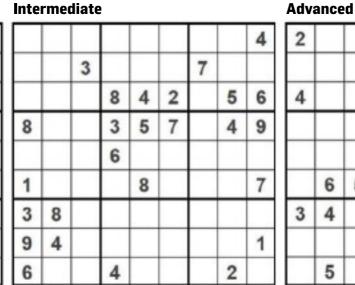
Sudoku

No 16622

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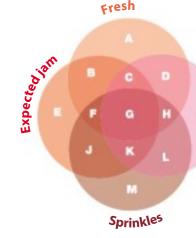
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HOW TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There's no maths involved, simply use reasoning and logic

Venn Diagram

Can you work out which two areas of represent stale doughnuts with sprinkles and icing and a surprise jam filling, and fresh doughnuts with icing but no sprinkles and a jam filling that was clearly advertised?



Word Wheel

D bns J

Solution:

You have 10 minutes to find as many words as possible, using the letters P shown in the wheel. Each word must use the hub letter and a E minimum of three others, and letters may be used only once. You cannot use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is Α one nine-letter word in the wheel, for which today's clue is: C **EMERGENCY AID**

Six words: average, nine words: good, 12 words: very good, 15 or more: excellent

Yesterday's nine-letter word: INSERTION



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LEGAL NOTICES

THE HIGH COURT 2019 Record No. 122 COS

IN THE MATTER OF UNITED POWER LIMITED (In Provisional Liquidation) AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2014

Notice is hereby given that a Petition for the winding-up of the above-named Company by the High Court was on the 8th day of April, 2019, presented to the High Court by the Company having its registered office at Clonmoney House, Newenham Street, Limerick, and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the High Court on the 29th day of April, 2019, and that any creditor or contributory of the said Company who wishes to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by that person or their Solicitor for that purpose and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said Company who requires it by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

By Order of the High Court made on the 8th day of April 2019, Mr. Anthony J. Fitzpatrick of Fitzpatrick O'Dwyer & Co., Chartered Accountants, Clonmoney House, Newenham Street, Limerick was appointed Provisional Liquidator of the Company. Company.

Herbert Kilcline, Solicitor, 10 Bessborough Parade, Rathmines, Dublin 6 Solicitor for the Petitioner

NOTE: Any person who intends to appear at the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the above named Petitioner or his Solicitor, notice in writing of his intention to do so. The notice must state the name and address of the person or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm, and/or their Solicitor (if any), and must be served or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named Solicitor or the Petitioner not later than 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the 25th day of April, 2019.

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LEGAL NOTICES

DUBLIN CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF THE CITY OF
DUBLIN

THE LICENSING ACTS 1833 TO

2018; THE COURTS (SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS) ACT 1961; SECTION 15 OF THE INTOXICATING LIQUOR ACT

SECTION 2(2) OF THE LICENSING (IRELAND) ACT, 1902, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 21 OF THE INTOXICATING LIQUOR ACT

TIO PROPERTY HOLDINGS II LIMITED **Applicant**

TAKE NOTICE THAT, TIO Property Holdings II Limited, having its registered office at 25-28 North Wall Quay, Dublin 1, intends to apply to the Circuit Court sitting at Circuit Court Number 28, Four Courts, Inns Quay, Dublin 7 in the City of Dublin on Thursday, 16 May 2019 at 10.00 o'clock in the forenoon or so soon thereafter forenoon or so soon thereafter as this application may be taken in its place in the Court list, for the following order:

A Declaration that certain premises which the Applicant premises which the Applicant proposes to acquire and/or construct and/or alter (as the case may be), and to be known as Ormond Locke and situate at 34, 35, 36 and 37 Lower Ormond Quay and 28A, 29, 30 and 31 Great Strand Street, Dublin 1, together with premises to the rear of 31 Lower Ormond Quay, Dublin 1 and to the rear of 25-28 Great Strand Street, Dublin 1 in the Parish of St. Mary's in the County of Dublin, Mary's in the County of Dublin, will be fit and convenient to receive an excise licence pursuant to the above entitled statutory provisions when so acquired and/or constructed and/or altered in accordance with the plans to be adduced at the hearing of this application.

Dated this 8th day of April, 2019.

Signed and sealed by the Applicant Company:

SIGNED: Eoin Donellan-Director For and on behalf of TIO Property Holdings II Limited

SIGNED: Anthony Noonan-Director For and on behalf of TIO Property Holdings II Limited

SIGNED: A & L Goodbody Solicitors for the Applicant, International Financial Services North Wall Quay, Dublin 1

To: The County Registrar, The Circuit Court, Aras Ui Dhálaigh Inns Quay, Dublin 7

To President of the District Court, Dublin Metropolitan District Aras Uí Dhálaigh, Inns Quay, Dublin 7

To: The Superintendent, An Garda Síochana Store Street Garda Station, Store Street, Dublin 1

To: The Chief Fire Officer, Dublin Fire Brigade Headquarters 165-169 Townsend Street, Dublin 2



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Tuesday, April 16, 2019 IRISH INDEPENDENT 34



Tuesday April 16

RTÉ ONE

- 6.00 EuroNews 7.25 Teleshopping 8.00 Today with Maura and Daithi 9.55 The Ellen **DeGeneres Show** (T) **10.50** Dr Phil (T) 11.45 Shortland Street (T) 12.15 Doctors (T)12.45 Telly Bingo 1.00 RTE News (T) 1.30 Home and Away 2.00 Neighbours (T) 2.25 EastEnders Drama series. (T) 3.00 Building Ireland 3.30 Today with Maura and Daithi 5.40 Nuacht 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 RTE News (T)
- 7.00 Ear to the Ground (T)**EastEnders** Kathy is surprised to learn Lola's news, Mel's plan backfires, and Sonia and Martin hatch a plan to help Bex.
- **8.00 Fair City** Doug discovers Ray doubted his abilities, while Sharon is upset when money worries get the better of Lee.
- 8.30 **The Borrowers** An inside look at the Credit Union loan office. Here, Gary and dad Eugene squabble over a car.
- 9.00 RTE News (T) 9.35 Prime Time
- **10.15** The Good Fight The FBI questions Diane as part of a background check on Kurt, leading to unexpected consequences. Last in series. (T)
- **11.15 Silent Witness** As the truth behind the McMorris family is revealed, the team brings the Christmas tragedy mystery to a close. Last in series. (T)
- 12.20 Call the Midwife (T) 1.20 **Chicago Med 2.10 Prime** Time 2.45 Telly Bingo 2.55 **Shortland Street 3.20 Dr Phil** 4.05 Doctors 4.35 EuroNews

- **6.00 EuroNews 7.15 RETjr** (T) 9.30 Jamie Johnson (T) **10.00 Horrible Histories** (T) 10.35 Deadly Top Tens (**T**) **11.05 FILM: The Next Step Live: The Movie** (2015) Documentary, with Logan Fabbro and Trevor Tordjman. *** (T) 12.35 Pig, Goat, Banana, Cricket 1.00 Scooby-**Doo 1.25 Teen Titans Go!** (T)1.50 Matt Hatter Chronicles (T) 2.15 Strange Hill High (\top) 2.40 The Next Step (\top) 3.05 The Bagel and Becky Show 3.20 Austin & Ally (T)3.45 Corneil and Bernie 4.00 **The Ellen DeGeneres Show** (T) 5.00 The Simpsons (T)**5.30 The Simpsons** (**T**) **6.00** Neighbours (T) 6.30 Home
- **Live UEFA Champions** 7.00 League: Barcelona v Manchester United (Kick-off 8.00pm) Darragh Maloney is joined by Liam Brady and Didi Hamann for coverage of the second leg of the quarter-final

and Away Drama. (T)

- clash at the Nou Camp. (T) 10.10 Peaky Blinders The Shelbys are rocked by recent shocking events, and Tommy tries to persuade the family to unite against the Mafia in order to exact their revenge. (T)
- 11.20 Grey's Anatomy (T) Wisdom of the Crowd (T) 1.05 **Brooklyn Nine-Nine** 1.35 Great Lighthouses of Ireland (T) 2.35 Creedon's Shannon (T) 3.30 Celeb **Operation Transformation** (T) **4.25 NCIS 5.05 EuroNews**

- The Tonight Show (\top) 7.00 Ireland AM (T) 10.30 This Morning (T) 12.30 (T) 1.00 The Chase (\top) 2.00 The **Chase (T) 3.00 Elaine 4.00** The Lazy Chef (T) 4.30 Judge Judy 5.30 (T) 6.00 The Six O'Clock Show (T)
- 7.00 **Emmerdale** Victoria and Moira are forced together. (T)
- 7.30 **Live UEFA Champions** League: Juventus v Ajax (Kick-off 8.00pm) Coverage of the second leg of the quarterfinal clash at the Allianz Stadium in Turin. Cristiano Ronaldo will hope to power his Juventus side to victory tonight and keep alive his hopes of lifting the trophy with a third club in his career. However, Dutch champions Ajax are not a side to be taken lightly, having come back from a firstleg deficit against Real Madrid in the last-16 to win the tie and book their place at this stage of the competition.
- 10.15 UEFA Champions League **Highlights** Action from the two quarter-finals, which saw Manchester United travel to face Barcelona at the Nou Camp and Ajax head to Turin to face Italian giants Juventus.
- **11.00 The Tonight Show** Matt Cooper and Ivan Yates are joined by a panel of guests from politics and more, to offer their unique take on the big national stories making the headlines. (T)
- 12.00 Secrets of the Royal Babies: Harry & Meghan 1.00 Trauma 1.55 Teleshopping 5.25 The Six O'Clock Show

886

TWO

TG 4

- 7.00 Cula 4 9.30 Ainmhi 999 10.00 Little House on the **Prairie 10.55 Gilmore Girls** 11.45 Cheese Slices 12.15 Costa Ui Chathain 12.45 **Comhra 1.15 The West** Wing 2.05 Weakest Link 3.00 Cula 4 na nOg 5.28 **An Aimsir Laithreach 5.30 Scothfhoirne 6.00 Weakest** Link Quiz show. 6.57 **An Aimsir Laithreach**
- 7.00 **Nuacht TG4** 7.30 7 La
- Eire na Nuachtscannan 8.00 Documentary exploring the coverage of the impact of the
- Second World War on Ireland. 8.30 Ros na Run Berni makes it clear she does not appreciate Briain's advice. Meanwhile, Grainne plays matchmaker.
- 9.00 Glor Tire — Rogha & Togha A selection of songs from the 13th instalment of the popular country music programme.
- 9.30 **Opry an luir** Johnny Brady introduces his special guest, singer Pauline Scanlon.
- 10.40 Orange Is the New Black Piper's world is turned upside down when she's forced to confront the consequences of her actions and faces new challenges as she is forced to board a bus and a plane to whereabouts unknown.
- 11.45 Ros na Run Berni makes it clear she does not appreciate Briain's advice. Meanwhile, Grainne plays matchmaker.
- 12.15 Friday Night Lights 1.07 **An Aimsir Laithreach 1.10** Fiorsceal 2.15 France 24



Juliana Harkavy stars, Arrow, Sky One, 8pm

SATELLITE

UTV

10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV Lunchtime News. 1.55 UTV Live. 2.00 Judge Rinder. 3.00 Tenable. 4.00 Tipping Point. 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 UTV Live. 6.30 News. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Save Money: Lose Weight. 8.00 Emmerdale. 8.30 Hard to Please OAPs. 9.00 The Widow. 10.00 ITV News at Ten. 10.30 **UTV Live. 10.45 The Jonathan Ross** Show. 11.45 The Bay. 12.40 Tenable.

Virgin Media Three

9.00 Elaine. 10.00 Dress to Impress. 12.00 Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 1.00 Nanny 911. 2.00 Judge Rinder. 4.00 The Royal. 5.00 Robson Greens Coastal Lives. 6.00 Eamonn & Ruth: How the Other Half Live. 7.00 Freshman Father (2010). 9.00 Blue Murder. 10.30 Vera. 12.30 Big Heads. 1.30 Elaine.

BBC4

9.00 Looking for Rembrandt. 10.00 Bloody Queens: Elizabeth and Mary. 11.00 The Horizon Guide to Materials. 12.00 Dissected: The **Incredible Human Foot. 1.00 Roger Bannister: Everest on the Track.**

more4

10.55 The Great British Bake Off. 12.15 Find It, Fix It, Flog It. 1.15 Four in a Bed. 3.50 Food Unwrapped. 4.55 The Secret Life of the Zoo. 5.55 The Supervet. 6.55 999: On The Frontline. 7.55 Grand Designs. 9.00 Wild Amazon. 10.00 24 Hours in A&E. 11.05 Nightwatch Nation: Emergency 911. 12.00 999: What's Your Emergency?.

9.00 Baby Daddy. 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. 11.00 The Goldbergs. 12.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine. 1.00 The Big Bang Theory. 2.00 Baby Daddy. 3.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine. 4.00 The Goldbergs. 5.00 The Crystal Maze. 6.00 The Big Bang Theory. 7.00 Hollyoaks. 7.30 Speechless. 8.00 The Big Bang Theory. 9.00 Charmed. 10.00 Oblivion (2013). 12.30 8 Out of 10 Cats.

Sky One

9.30 Play Your Pets Right. 9.45 Wild Files. 10.00 The Athena. 10.30 The Simpsons. 11.00 Modern Family. 12.00 NCIS: Los Angeles. 1.00 Hawaii Five-0. 3.00 Modern Family. 4.00 The Simpsons. 5.30 Futurama. 6.30 The Simpsons. 8.00 Arrow. 9.00 SEAL Team. 10.00 A League of Their Own. 11.00 Curfew. 12.00 Road Wars.

Sky Atlantic

9.00 The West Wing. 11.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. 12.00 Without a Trace. 2.00 Blue Bloods. 3.00 The West Wing. 5.00 Without a Trace. 7.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. 8.00 Blue Bloods. 9.00 The Case Against Adnan Syed. 10.10 Game of Thrones. 11.15 Billions. 12.25 Veep. 1.00 **Barry. 1.40 Our Cartoon President.**



Tipping Point (T) 9.20 The

Jeremy Kyle Show (T) **10.25**

The Jeremy Kyle Show (\top)

11.30 Ireland AM (T) **12.30**

House (T) 2.30 Emmerdale

(T) **3.00 Coronation Street**

4.00 Tipping Point (T) **5.00**

Tipping Point Gameshow.

The Chase Presenter Bradley

Walsh hosts the quiz show. (T)

(T) 6.00 The Chase (T)

8.30 Emmerdale Faith's attempt

9.00 Locked Up Strangeways

10.00 News on Two (**⊤**)

10.30 Emmerdale Robert and

to help goes awry, Matty

confides in Victoria, and an

incident leaves Harriet afraid. (T)

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maximum security prisons,

Aaron are offered hope.

Meanwhile, Victoria and

to help goes awry, Matty

confides in Victoria, and an

Lemon welcomes Melissa

Joan Hart, Richard Blackwood

and Aldo Zilli as he rummages

around the homes of the rich

and famous to find clues for the

stars to identify who owns the

Chat show. **1.30 Big Heads**

incident leaves Harriet afraid. (T)

11.00 Emmerdale Faith's attempt

11.30 Through the Keyhole Keith

showcased house. (T)

12.30 The Graham Norton Show

Moira are forced together. (T)

one of Britain's most notorious

following both inmates and staff.

8.00 News at 8 (T)

 (\top) 3.30 Coronation Street (\top)

Loose Women 1.30 Guess This

7.20 Big Star's Little Star 8.20



- 6.00 Breakfast (T) 9.15 Animal Park Easter Special (T) 10.00 **Homes Under the Hammer** (T) 11.00 The Sheriffs Are Coming (\top) 11.45 Close Calls: On Camera (T) 12.15 Bargain Hunt (T) 1.00 BBC News (T) **1.30 BBC Newsline** (T) **1.45 Doctors** (T) **2.15 Curiosity** (T)3.00 Escape to the Country (\top) 3.45 Home Is Where the Art Is (T) 4.30 The Repair Shop (T) 5.15 Pointless (T)**6.00 BBC News** (T) **6.30** BBC Newsline (T) 6.55 Party **Election Broadcast** (T)
- 7.00 The One Show (T)7.30 **EastEnders** Martin and Sonia hatch a plan to help Bex. (T)
- 8.00 **Holby City** A startling incident forces Zosia to reconsider her future, and an Dom attempts to keep Carole at arm's length. (T)
- **Trust Me** New series in which Jamie McCain arrives of the spinal unit and refuses to talk about his injury. (T)
- **10.00 BBC News** (T) 10.25 BBC Newsline (T)
- **10.35 Eating with My Ex** Couples discussing the breakdown of their relationships include Saara, who hopes that her ex Jack can understand why she can't tell her strict father about their relationship. (T)
- 11.05 I'm Coming Out Eighteen year old Ross films himself as he comes out as gay to his parents, revealing the struggles many gay people still face. (T)
- 11.35 Getting High for God? (T)12.05 Weather for the Week Ahead (T) **12.10 BBC News** (T)

- **6.30** The Repair Shop (T) **7.15** Home is Where the Art is (T) 8.00 Celebrity Painting Challenge (T) 9.00 BBC News; Weather (T) 10.00 Victoria Derbyshire (T) 11.00 **BBC Newsroom Live** (\top) **12.15 Politics Live 1.00 The Super** League Show (T) 1.45 Back in Time for Dinner (\top) 2.45 **Jaguars: Brazil's Super Cats** (T) **3.45 The Hairy Builder** (T) 4.15 The Hairy Builder (T)**4.45 Eggheads** (T) **5.15 Flog** It! (T) 6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games (T) 6.30 Island Medics (T)
- Antiques Road Trip (T) 7.00 8.00 **Your Home Made Perfect** New series in which Angela Scanlon hosts as two architects compete using virtual reality to present their vision of remodelling a home in Scotland. before the couple choose which one to build. (T)
- 9.00 Surgeons: At the Edge of Life A facial surgeon ventures into uncharted territory to operate on a patient's rare disease. (T)
- 10.00 The Blame Game Guest Reginald D Hunter joins Tim McGarry, Colin Murphy, Jake O' Kane and Neil Delamere. (T)
- **10.30** Newsnight (T) 11.15 Don't Forget the Driver Peter takes a church group on a trip to a donkey sanctuary. (T)
- 11.45 Frankie Boyle's New World Order (T)12.15 Pilgrimage: The Road to
- Rome (T) 1.15 Inside the Factory Documentary. (T) 2.15 This Is BBC Two (T)

- 6.25 Cheers (T) 7.45 Frasier (T) 9.10 Everybody Loves Raymond (T) 10.10 Ramsay's **Kitchen Nightmares USA** (T) 11.05 Car SOS (T) 12.00 Channel 4 News (T) 12.05 Come Dine with Me (\top) 1.05 **Escape to the Chateau: DIY** (T) 2.10 Countdown (T) 3.00 A Place in the Sun (T) 4.00 A New Life in the Sun (\top) 5.00 Four in a Bed (T) 5.30 **Extreme Cake Makers** (T) **6.00 The Simpsons** Comedy. (T) 6.30 Hollyoaks (T)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (T) 8.00 Food Unwrapped (T)
- The Great British School 9.00 **Swap** New series in which students from the predominantly white town of Tamworth arrive in Saltley in Central Birmingham. (T)
- 10.00 First Dates New series. Energetic owl sanctuary volunteer Krystal meets fellow animal lover James. (T)
- 11.05 Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back New series. Gordon Ramsay visits the Trolley Stop Cafe, a classic Cajun-inspired restaurant located in the heart of New Orleans, Louisiana. (T)
- 12.00 Celebrity SAS: Who Dares Wins For Stand Up to Cancer (\top) 12.55 Grand Designs: The Street (\top) 1.50 The Restoration Man (T) 2.45 Supershoppers (T) 3.15 French Collection (T) 4.10 All Star Driving School (\top) 4.35 Kirstie's Handmade Treasures (\top) 4.55 The £100k **Drop** (T) **5.50 Countdown** (T)



DEATH NOTICES

AHERN (née Dolan), Christina (Ena) (Glasnevin) - April 12, 2019 (peacefully), at Anovo Care Nursing Home, Swords, beloved wife of the late Kevin and loving mother to John and the late Noel and Pat; Christina will be sadly missed by her loving family, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Funeral today (Tuesday) after 10 o'c. Requiem Mass in Our Lady of Dolours Church, Glasnevin to Glasnevin Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to St. Francis Hospice, Raheny.

"May she rest in peace."

CONROY , Michael A. (Foncy)
(Carrownageelaun, Tulsk, Co. Roscommon) - April 14, 2019
(peacefully), loving husband of Kitty, father of Anne (London), Michael (Tulsk), John & Joseph (Chicago) and father-in-law of the late Con McLoone; sadly missed by his loving family, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, cousins, nieces, nephews, relatives and large circle of friends. Reposing at O'Connors Funeral Home, Tulsk today (Tuesday) from 4 o'c. to 8 o'c. Removal at 8 o'c. to The Church of Ss. Eithne and Fidelma, Tulsk. Funeral Mass tomorrow (Wednesday) at 2 o'c. Burial afterwards in Tulsk Cemetery. Family flowers only please.

EGAN (née Farrell), Rose (Rosie) (Shanard Avenue Santry, and late of Garrycastle, Athlone) (peacefully) - April 13, 2019 (peacefully), surrounded by her loving family in the care of the staff of Cara Care Nursing Home, Northwood, Santry, predeceased by her husband Jimmy, and son

Care Nursing Home, Northwood, Santry, predeceased by her husband Jimmy and son Brendan; she will be sadly missed by her sons Aidan and James, brother Christy and sister Sr. Clare Farrell, daughters-in-law Angela, Nancy and Kerry, grandchildren Stephen, Fiona, Ciaran, Sinéad, Martin and Paul, greatgrandchildren Ella and Katie, relatives and friends. Reposing at her own home this (Tuesday) evening from 4 o'c. to 8 o'c. at her own nome this (Tuesday) evening from 4 o'c. to 8 o'c. Funeral Mass tomorrow (Wednesday) morning at 10 o'c. in The Church of Our Lady of Victories, Ballymun Road, followed by burial in Fingal Cemetery.

LENFESTEY (née Gilmore), Gertie (peacefully) at home (Olde Forge Manor) April 14, 2019, surrounded by her loving family, beloved wife of the late Dr Joseph and loving mother to Joe, Jim, Charlie, Carmel and Catherine. Sons - in-law Fergus and Gerry, daughters-in-law Antoinette, Joan and Maggi, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Gertie's remains will leave her late residence on (Wednesday) April 17, at 9.15 o'c to arrive at St Anne's Parish Church Kingsway for 10 o'c. Requiem Mass. Burial after in Carnmoney Cemetery. Deeply regretted by her entire family circle. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Macmillan Cancer Support. Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on her soul. Enquires to O'Kanes Funeral Directors, 116-118 Donegall Street, Belfast, BT1 2GX.

DEATH NOTICES

MULLANE (Shalom, Carriglea Cáirde Services, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford and formerly 110 The Quay, Waterford) - April 14, 2019, Mary, in the tender and wonderful care of management and staff at Carriglea Cáirde Services, Dungarvan, predeceased by her mother and father, brothers Jim and John and her dear cousin Marie Ryan; deeply regretted by her loving brother Paddy, sister Brigid, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces and cousins. May She Rest In Peace. Funeral Mass in Carriglea Cáirde Services Church, Dungarvan today (Tuesday, April 16) at 12 noon, followed by burial in Ballygunner Cemetery, arriving at 2.30 o'c. approximately. MULLANE(Shalom, Carriglea

CODY, Richard (Dick)
- April 13, 2019 (Balkill Road, Howth) (suddenly), much loved brother of Pat, Noel and the late Ray; sadly missed by his brothers, sisters-in-law Joan, Colette and Valarie, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and many old friends from his years with Clontarf, Suttonians and Lansdowne Rugby Clubs. Burial in St. Fintan's Cemetery, Sutton tomorrow (Wednesday) morning following 10 o'c. Mass in the Church of the Assumption, Howth. House private.

"May he rest in peace."

CONDON, Patrick (Paddy) (Devon Road, Templeglantine, Co. Limerick and formerly of Ardinnan, Co. Tipperary) - April 14, 2019 at St. Ita's Hospital, Newcastle West; deeply regretted by his loving wife Nancy, sons Patrick, Mike, Noel, Tim, J.J. and Brian, brothers Bob and John D., daughters-inlaw, brothers-in-law, brothers-in-law, brothers-in-law, brothers-in-law, moreose, neighbours and friends. R.I.P. Reposing at Harnett's Funeral Home, The Square, Abbeyfeale today (Tuesday) from 5 o'c. followed by removal at 8 o'c. to the Church of The Most Holy Trinity, Templeglantine. Requiem Mass tomorrow (Wednesday) at 11 o'c. Burial afterwards in Reilig na Trionoide. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Trens and Micke, Scenetery, Ballyadams for Funeral Mass at 11 o'c. Burial afterwards in Reilig na Trinoide. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Transplant Association. (www.ihlta.com).

CONROY, Michael A. (Foncy) (Carrownageelaun, Tulsk, Co.

morning to St. Anne's Church, Portmarnock arriving for 10 o'c. Funeral Mass followed by cremation in Dardistown Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Beaumont Hospital Foundation. House private.

MacNAMARA, Noel (Hy-Brasil, Ardfinnan, MackClenars, Clonmel, Co.Tipperary) - April 14, 2019 (peacefully) surrounded by his loving family; sadly missed by Babs, his beloved wife of 62 years, his children Brendan, Helen, John, Maurice, Aidan, Clare and Colette, daughters-in-law Maura, Deirdre, Mary and Deirdre, sons-in-law John, Colm and Conal, twenty-three grandchildren, nieces, nephews, his wide circle of friends and Staff. Rest in Peace. Reposing at his home, Hy-Brasil, Ardfinnan Eircode E91F348 today (Tuesday, April 16, 2019) from 5 o'c. to 8o'c. Removal tomorrow (Wednesday) at 11.30 o'c. for Requiem Mass in the Holy Family Church, Ardfinnan at 12 noon. Followed by burial in St Finnian's Cemetery Ardfinnan. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St Theresa's Hospital, Clogheen.

DEATH NOTICES

McKAY (née Farry), Mary (Castleknock, Dublin) - April 14, 2019 (peacefully), after a sudden illness surrounded by her devoted family at Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown, beloved wife of John, wonderful mother of Patricia, Angela, Susan and the late infant Declan, proud grandmother of Katie, Sarah, Jayne, Ashling, Julianne, Matthew, Alex, Patrick, Jonathan and Rebecca, predeceased by her loving family, brothers Michael and Brian, sister Cathleen, sons-in-law Ken Nyhan, Gary Clarke and P.J. O'Donnell; she will always be fondly remembered by her sisters-in-law, brother-in-law, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Reposing at her former home / daughter Patricia's residence this (Tuesday) evening from 6 o'c to 9 o'c. Removal to the Church of Our Lady Mother of the Church, Castleknock tomorrow (Wednesday) morning arriving for Requiem Mass at 11 o'c., followed by burial in Dangan Cemetery, Summerhill, Co. Meath. House private on Wednesday morning, please.

"Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dilis." McKAY

NOLAN (née Fitzpatrick) (Shandon Crescent, Phibsboro) - April 13, 2019 (peacefully), in her 96th year in the care of The Little Sisters of the Poor, Roebuck Road, May (Mary Carmel), cherished mother of Michael, Maria, Emily and Johnny, predeceased by her husband John; she will be sadly missed by her loving children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, brother, sisters, brothers-in-law, sister-in-law, extended relatives and friends. May she rest in peace. Removal from Massey Bros. Funeral Home, 88A New Cabra Road tomorrow (Wednesday) morning, arriving at Christ the King Church, Cabra at 11.20 o'c. for 11.30 o'c. Requiem Mass. Burial to take place afterwards in Glasnevin Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, in lieu of flowers to The Little Sisters of the Poor, Roebuck Road. All enquiries to Massey Bros., Cabra, 01 838 9774. NOLAN

O'MEARA (née Reddan)
- April 14, 2019 (Loughan,
Dunkerrin and late of Lorrha),
Marie; deeply regretted by her
loving husband Joe, son Keith,
daughter Jane, parents Michael
and Ann, sister Lucy, brother
Patrick, son-in-law Timmy,
grandson Caleb, brothers and
sisters-in-law, uncles, aunts,
cousins, relatives, neighbours
and friends. Rest in peace.
Reposing at her residence today
(Tuesday) from 4 o'c., with (Tuesday) from 4 o'c., with Rosary at 8 o'c. Private removal tomorrow (Wednesday) morning to Dunkerrin Church to arrive at 10.45 o'c. for Funeral Mass at 11 o'c. Interment afterwards in Finglas Cemetery.

"Ar dheis Dé go raibh

O'BRIEN, Dónal (Domhnall O Briain) (Beaumont, Dublin, Killorglin, Co. Kerry and late of Customs and Excise) - April 13, 2019, in his 97th year, in the loving care of St. Pappin's Nursing Home, beloved husband of the late Camilla and much loved father of Deirdre, Fionnuala, Sinéad and Eimear; lovingly remembered and sadly missed by his daughters, sons-jn-law Paddy, Seán and Pat, Eimear's partner Patrick, grandchildren Aoife, Lorna, Eadaoin, Killian, Caoimhe, Lorcan, Malachy, Aine and Evan and Siofra and their father Shane, great-grandchildren Réaltín, Ríona, Oisín, Fionn, Naoise and Róisín, brother Dermot (Fr. Basil), sister Lucinda, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, extended family, kind neighbours and his many friends. Reposing at the Kirwan Funeral Home, Fairview Strand this (Tuesday) afternoon from 3 o'c., with removal to Church of the Nativity, Beaumont, arriving at 5 o'c. Requiem Mass tomorrow (Wednesday) morning at 10 o'c. Funeral thereafter to Fingal Cemetery.

"Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal."

DEATH NOTICES

Tel: 1890 516 516

O'RIORDAN, John (Tudor Drive, Prior Park, Clonmel, late of AIB Clonmel, Co. Tipperary and formerly of Cork City) - April 14, 2019, at South Tipperary General Hospital, brother of the late Sr. Maureen; very deeply regretted by his loving wife Maureen, son Niall (Crosshaven), daughters Amy (USA) and Aoife (Australia), daughter-in-law Aine, sons-in-law Chuck and J.P., grandchildren Laura, Anna, Susan, Ian, Leah, Charlie and Heidi, brother Tom, sisters Lily, Evelyn and Theresa, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and his many friends. May John rest in peace. Reposing at O'Donoghue's Funeral Home, Kickham Street, Clonmel, E91 PK19, tomorrow (Wednesday) evening from 4.45 o'c., with removal at 6.45 o'c. to S.S. Peter and Paul's Church. Funeral Liturgy on Thursday at 2 o'c., followed by burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to the Alzheimer's Association, Clonmel.

PARKE, Vincent (Fryenstown, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow) - April 14, 2019 (peacefully), beloved son of the late Jack and Ella (Oldcourt), cared for at home by his loving family; will be greatly missed by his brothers and sisters, Liz, Teresa, John, Angela, Muriel and Eamonn, his aunt Mary, beloved nieces and nephews, extended family and close friends. Reposing at his home (Eircode W91D2CO) with removal from there today (Tuesday) at 6.30 o'c. to arrive at St. Nicholas of Myra Church, Dunlavin for 7 o'c. reception prayers. Funeral Mass tomorrow (Wednesday) at 11 o'c. followed by burial in Dunlavin Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Friends of St. Brigid's Hospice, The Curragh.

PHELAN (née O'Brien), Monica (Pike of Rushall, Mountrath, Co. Laois, former Lady President and Captain of Mountrath Golf Club) - April 15, 2019 (peacefully), surrounded by her loving family in the kind and dedicated care of the staff of the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise, predeceased by her daughter Fiona, beloved wife of Michael and loving mother to Declan, Neil, Ronan, Clodagh and Ciara; sadly missed by her husband, children, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, relatives, neighbours and friends. May she rest in peace. Reposing at Burke's Funeral Home, Mountrath, today (Tuesday) from 4 o'c., with Rosary at 8 o'c. Removal tomorrow (Wednesday) to Naomh Garadh Church, Pike of Rushall for Requiem Mass at 1 o'c., followed by burial in St. Fintan's Cemetery, Mountrath.

POYNTON, Donald (Mulhuddart, Dublin) - April 14, 2019 (suddenly), beloved son of the late Thomas and Mary Jane and dear brother of Mary, Betty, Tommy and the late Albert; sadly missed by his leving sisters. missed by his loving sisters, brother, brothers-in-law, sister-in-law, cousins, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Removal to St. Brigid's Church, Blanchardstown this (Wednesday) morning arriving for Requiem Mass at 12 noon followed by burial in Mulhuddart

POYNTON, Donald (Mulhuddart, Dublin) - April 14, 2019 (suddenly), beloved son of the late Thomas and Mary Jane and dear brother of Mary, Betty, Tommy and the late Albert; sadly missed by his loving sisters, brother, brothers-in-law, sister-in-law, cousins, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Reposing at Cunningham's Funeral Home, Church Avenue, Blanchardstown this (Tuesday) evening from 8 o'c. to 9 o'c. Removal to St. Brigid's Church, Blanchardstown tomorrow (Wednesday) morning arriving for Requiem Mass at 12 noon followed by burial in Mulhuddart Cemetery.

DEATH NOTICES

UÍ RAGHALLAIGH (née Henderson), Laurie (Raheny, D5, late of Ballybunion, Co. Kerry) - April 14, 2019, beloved wife of the late Seamus, loying mother of Éidín, Máire, Aine, Ciara, Colm, Eilís and Una; sadly missed by her children, sons-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandchildren, her sisters Betty, Mary and Joan, brother Jim, large extended family and friends. Reposing today (Tuesday) in the Frank Jennings Funeral Home, Greendale Road, from 3.30 o'c. to 5.15 o'c. with removal at 5.30 o'c. to St. John The Evangelist Church, Foxfield, Kilbarrack arriving at 5.30 o'c. Funeral Mass at 10 o'c. tomorrow (Wednesday) followed by burial in Fingal Cemetery. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to the Breast Clinic, Beaumont at www.beaumontfundraising.ie Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dilis

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dílis

UÍ RAGHALLAIGH, Laurie

(Henderson roimh phósadh di)
14 Aibreáin 2019 (Ráth Eanaigh,
roimhe sin Baile an
Bhuinneánaigh, Co. Chiarraí).
Baintreach Shéamais, máthair
Eidín, Máire, Aine, Ciara, Colm,
Eilís, Una. Á caoineadh go géar Eilís, Una. Á caoineadh go géar ag a páistí, a mic cleamhnais, a hiníonacha cleamhnais, a garpháistí, a deirfiúracha Betty, Mary agus Joan, a deartháir Jim, teaghlach sínte agus a cairde. Á tórraimh inniu (Dé Máirt) idteach tórraimh Frank Jennings, Bóthar an Ghleanntáin Ghlais, ó 3.30 o'c. go 5.15 o'c. Tabharfar a corp go Séipéal N. Eoin Soiscéalaí, Gort an tSionnaigh, Cill Bharróg ag 5.30 o'c. Sochraid ag 10 o'c. Dé Céadaoin, adhlacadh ina dhiaidh sin i reilg Fhine Gall. Níl aon ghá le bláthanna g.r.m.a. Deontais, In Treng Frine Gall. Nil aon gha
le bláthanna g.r.m.a. Deontais,
más dual, ag clinic
brollaigh Beaumont
www.beaumontfundraising.ie.
Ar dheis Dé go raibh
a h-anam dílis

SITUATIONS VACANT

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Booking of Notices by Funeral Directors

- Please Call (01) 7055188
- Log onto www.inotices.ie
- Email: notices@inmsales.ie

Booking deadlines are as follows:-

By email:-Monday - Friday 5.45pm Saturday 3.45pm Sunday 5.45pm **By Phone:-**Monday - Friday 6pm Saturday 4pm Sunday 6pm

Irish Independent V

Hërald Sunday Independent

Independent.ie



Part 8

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A P P L I C A T I O N T O T H E ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR A REVIEW OF A LICENCE

Regeneron Ireland DAC (formerly Regeneron Ireland U.C), Ballycummin, Raheen Business Park, Raheen, Co. Limerick (Company Registration no. 519550) has applied to the Environmental Protection Agency for a review of its Industrial Emissions Licence (reference P0991-01) for its biopharmaceutical facility in Ballycummin, Raheen Business Park, Raheen, Co. Limerick (National Grid Reference 155409E 152405N).

The classes and nature of the Industrial Emissions Directive activities applicable to this facility in accordance with the First Schedule to the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 as amended have been updated since the application was made on 27 November 2018 and are now as follows: Class 5.16: The production of pharmaceutical production of pharmaceutical production of fuels in installations with a total rated thermal input of 50 MW or more

This licence review application principally relates to the incorporation of a proposed single storey manufacturing extension to the east of the existing facility, a proposed laboratory and administration building to the west of the existing facility, and a proposed multi-storey car park, as well as a proposal to amend a number of the existing licence conditions. The application is a ccompanied by 2 no. Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIARs) which will be submitted to the Agency and which have previously been submitted to Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) as part of planning permission (Planning Reference 17/1170) granted by LCCC on 10 April 2018 for the proposed single storey manufacturing extension, and planning permission (Planning Reference 18/1098) granted by LCCC on 12 April 2019 for the proposed laboratory and administration building and multi-storey car park. The EIARs and any further information relating to the effects on the environment of the emissions from the activity which may be furnished to the Agency in the course of the Agency in the course of the Agency in the course of the Agency.

A copy of the application for the licence may be inspected on the Agency's website www.epa.ie or inspected at or obtained from the headquarters of the Agency.

HOLIDAY HOMES

★ 4* Castlerosse Killarney ***
24 Mar – 14 Apr cottage
rental for 2 rits weekend €380,
4 rits midweek €510, 20m Pool,
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★ AT ROSSCARBERY, West Cork Lux. 3 bed bung, adj. to beach & village. Scenic Coastal area. Special rates weekly / weekends. Ph: 087 975 6051.

★BREFFNI ARMS HOTEL Arvagh, Co. Cavan 2 nights b/b plus 1 evening dinner, bottle of Wine €125pps. Phone 0494335127 or visit www.breffniarms.com

CAHERDANIEL, Ring of Kerry, Ige 4 bed, 2 bath 4* slps 8, 5 mins beach, overlooking Kenmare Bay, spectacular views. Ph: 01 820 6795 / 087 285 2128.

CLOGGA CARAVAN PARK Co. Wicklow. Mobile Home for sale. Under 1 hour from Dublin. Contact 0402 32982 or e-mail info@clogga.ie www.clogga.ie

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Irish Independent

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

PLANNING APPLICATIONS



Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath Dublin City Council

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

The Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) - Part 8 of Article 81

Applicant: Dublin City Council.

Location: Liffey Street Lower & Liffey Street Upper, Dublin 1.

Proposal: Pursuant to the requirements of the above, notice is hereby given of proposed Public Realm Improvement Works at Liffey Street Upper & Liffey Street Lower, Dublin 1.

The site includes the entire lengths of Liffey Street Lower, between Bachelors Walk and Middle Abbey Street, and Liffey Street Upper, between Middle Abbey Street and Henry Street.

The nature of the Public Realm Improvement Works includes; upgrade & widening of footpaths, introduction of new pedestrian plaza (during designated hours), upgrade and provision of pedestrian crossings, alterations to traffic & parking arrangements, provision of new water feature, provision of additional trees & landscaping, upgraded lighting scheme and new street furniture.

Plans and Particulars of the proposed development may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy for a period of <u>4 weeks</u> from Tuesday 16th April 2019 and up to and including Thursday 16th May 2019 during public opening hours at the offices of Dublin City Council, Public Counter, Planning and Property Development Department, Block 4, Ground Floor, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, Monday - Friday 09.00hrs to 16.30hrs.

Dublin City Council completed an Environmental Impact Assessment Screening and Appropriate Assessment Screening for the proposal. Both determined that the proposed development will not have a significant environmental impact and will not have a significant negative effect on European Sites. It is concluded therefore that that there is no requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment or a Stage II Appropriate Assessment to be completed for this proposal.

A submission or observation in relation to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be made, in writing, to the Executive Manager, Planning and Property Development Department, Dublin City Council, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, before 16.30hrs on Thursday 30th May 2019.

dublincity.ie

HOLIDAY HOMES

★ CO. CLARE, LAHINCH 3 bed, sleeps 6, close to beach and golf. Available weekly including Easter weekend. Ph 087 258 4430.

★ CO. KERRY, INCH/DINGLE PENINSULA, Special Offers sleeps 6, on Wild Atlantic Way, blue flag beach, Bord Failte, 4" house, Ph: 087 295 2356 / 066 712 9226.

CO. MAYO, DOOHOMA, on Wild Atlantic Way, The Sea Rod Inn, 3 nts B&B + 2 evening meals €125pp - end of Aug. 3 bed hse also avail. 097 86767

CO. WATERFORD, TRAMORE. Mobile Homes. Short breaks. Fitzmaurice's Caravan Park. Ph: 0 5 1 3 8 1 9 6 8 www. fitzmauricescaravanpark.com

★ CONNEMARA on the Wild ★ Atlantic Way. Magnificent views, 4 bed, 3 bath, sleeps 8, close to all amenities, pet friendly, wheelchair accessible, suitable for kids. Ph: 087 2385819.

★ DINGLE, CO. KERRY, 3 bed, en-suite bathroom, 5 min. walk Dingle town, all mod cons, sleeps 7 Ph: 0871719589 dinglebh@eircom.net

★ DINGLE, VENTRY. 3 be d house. Dingle, 3 miles. Under 1 mile to Ventry beach/village. Ph: (087) 9351790 or visit www.skelligview.com

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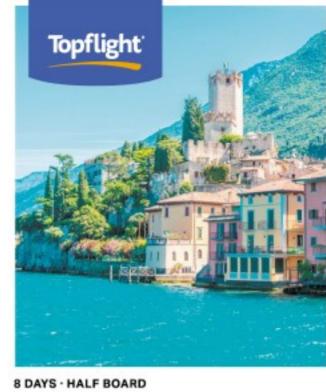
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Michael Verney

NOEL MEADE has six possibilities for next Monday's BoyleSports Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse but the progressive Tout Est Permis is the one he is most looking forward to.

Having skipped the Cheltenham Festival with Tout Est Permis, Meade is eyeing the €500,000 prize (for which he is a 16/1 chance) for the sixvear-old, unbeaten in his three starts for the Meath trainer this season.

"We have quite a few entered, but it would look at the moment like the only horse that is guaranteed a run is

Meade hope in 'terrific shape' for National bid

Tout Est Permis and it is the plan to run him," Meade said.

"Hopefully there'll be enough juice in the ground to let him run. He's going into the unknown over threeand-a-half miles, but it looked to us like he did nothing much more than stay every time he's run.

"He travelled well in the Troytown and won very well, but he's gone up a good bit since. He's in terrific shape and we're very happy with him."

Another six-year-old with leading claims is Paul Nolan's Discorama (10/1) – a close second in the National Hunt Cup at last month's Cheltenham Festival – but the trainer has warned that he may not take his chance if the ground hardens before then.

Ted Walsh's Any Second Now (7/1) an easy winner of the Kim Muir at the Festival – and Willie Mullins' Pairof-

browneyes (8/1), a faller when favourite in the race 12 months ago, vie for favouritism in the Fairyhouse feature.

Meanwhile, Jessica Harrington is hoping for a repeat with Supasundae as the Aintree Hurdle hero bids for back-to-back victories in next month's Punchestown Champion Hurdle.

"Supasundae has come out of his race in Aintree really well, and the plan now is to go to Punchestown.

He's only entered in the Champion Hurdle, so I wouldn't be tempted to run him over three miles," she said.

Elsewhere, action on the level is the focus today where the three-day Craven meeting kicks off at Newmarket with Aidan O'Brien's Western Australia the sole Irish representative at an intriguing meeting.

While unable to get his head in front in his last four runs, the son of Australia has some impressive placed form to his name - third in the Group One Futurity – and is expected to take all the beating under Ryan Moore in the Listed Feilden Stakes (3.0).

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			•	,, ,, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
	1	(10)	6-	ARTISTIC STREAK (164) T Dascombe 3 9-0	R Kingscote
	2	(8)	73-	BEGUILING CHARM (145) E Walker 3 9-0	G Moss
1	3	(7)	3 7-	FORTY FOUR SUNSETS (109) R Hannon 3 9-0	T Marquand
	4	(6)		INCLYNE (186) A Balding 3 9-0	O Murphy
	5	(1)	23-	● MAQSAD (175) (BF) W Haggas 3 9-0	J Crowle
	6	(4)		SPECIALISE R Varian 3 9-0	A Atzen
	7	(3)	2-	STAGEHAND (174) C Hills 3 9-0	R L Moore
	8	(5)		TERESHKOVA (H ¹) Michael Bell 3 9-0	Hayley Turne
	9	(9)	3-	TWIST 'N' SHAKE (255) J Gosden 3 9-0	L Dettor
	10	(2)		VENUSTA M Channon 3 9-0	S De Sous
_					

2018: Qazyna 3 9 0, Andrea Atzeni 6/4F (Roger Varian), 9 ran. BETTING: 3 Twist 'N' Shake, 100-30 Maqsad, 7-2 Stagehand, 9-2 Inclyne, 11-2 Specialise, 16 Forty Four Sunsets, 20 Others

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(13) J Butler 4 9-1 D Muscutt 109
Runs: 8 Wins: 2 GF Places: 2 Prize Money: £15,369
(3) J Tuite 49-0
Runs: 17 Wins: 2 GF Places: 4 Prize Money: £33,883
12 52135- COUNT OTTO (193) (H) (D) (8) Mrs A Perrett 4 9-0 J Watson 110
Runs: 17 Wins: 4 STD,ST/SLW,GF Places: 3 Prize Money: £49,858
13 5182-0 VON BLUCHER (16) (P) (6) R Menzies 6 9-0
Runs: 30 Wins: 4 STD,GF,GS Places: 8 Prize Money: £84,835
14 5/57-7 BURGUILLOS (90) (HT ¹) (BF)
(10) S C Williams 6 8-12
15 18242- BLACKHEATH (195) (D,BF)
10242 DEACHIEATTI (175) (D,DI)

ma 10 217**38- ZAIN HANA** (153) (D)

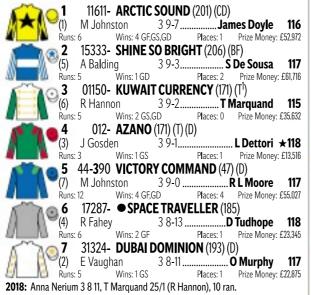
BETTING: 11-2 Green Power, 13-2 Flavius Titus, 8 Buridan, Tommy Taylor, 9 Blackheath, Desert Doctor, 14 Alemaratalyoum, Count Otto, Ice Lord, 16 Others

Runs: 12 Wins: 2 STD,FM

2018: Aeolus 7 9 7. Pat Cosgrave 7/1 (E Walker), 15 ran.

GREEN POWER 12/1 (9-7) close up, ridden along well over 1f out, driven and every chance entering final furlong, soon edged left and kept on, 4th of 17, 3/4l behind Foolaad (9-7) at Doncaster 6f hcap gf in Mar. FLAVIUS TITUS 14/1 (8-13) held up, progress on outer of group over 2f out, ridden to challenge over 1f out and with leader. faded inside final furlong, 4th of 11, 23/4l behind Tabdeed (9-3) at Ascot 6f hcap qd in Oct 2018. BURIDAN 7/1 (9-4) chased leaders, ridden along well over 1f out, kept on same pace final furlong, 7th of 17, 23/4l behind Foolaad (9-7) at

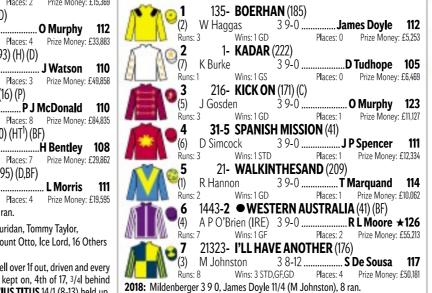
BET365 EUROPEAN FREE HANDICAP (LISTED RACE) (1) 7f 3yo only £28,355 7 dec.



BETTING: 5-2 Azano, 7-2 Arctic Sound, 9-2 Shine So Bright, 6 Kuwait Currency, 7 Dubai Dominion, 8 Space Traveller, 10 Victory Command FORM SCAN

AZANO 7/1 (9-0) led, ridden entering final 2f, found extra under pressure over 1f out, headed and not match pace of winner inside final furlong, 2nd of 8, 11/21 behind Mohaather (9-0) at Newbury 7f gr3 gs in Oct 2018. ARCTIC SOUND 5/1 (9-0) slowly into stride, behind, switched right and effort over 2f out, headway under pressure over 1f out, led well inside final furlong, stayed on strongly, won at Newmarket 7f Gr3 gd beating Bye Bye Hong Kong (9-0) by 1l. 7 ran. .

BET365 FEILDEN STAKES (LISTED | TV4 **RACE) (1)** 1m1f 3yo only £22,684 7 dec.



BETTING: 9-4 Western Australia, 7-2 Kick On, 5 l'II Have Another, 13-2 Boerhan, 15-2 Walkinthesand, 9 Kadar, 11 Spanish Mission

WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6/4F (9-3) tracked leader, ridden in 2nd 2f out and every chance entering final furlong where bumped and hampered, soon disputed lead briefly until headed well inside final furlong, held close home, 2nd of 8, 1/2l behind Playa Del Puente (9-3) at Dundalk (A.W) 1m lstd st in Mar. KICK ON 16/1 (9-1) held up in touch, headway over 2f out, ridden well over 1f out, never threatened 6th of 11, 31/4l behind Magna Grecia (9-1) at Doncaster 1m gr1 gs in Oct 2018 I'LL HAVE ANOTHER 3/1 (9-1) led, pushed along 2f out, ridden over 1f out, soon ioined, headed and driven just inside final furlong, kept on same pace, 3rd of 5

31/21 behind Manuela De Vega (8-12) at Pontefract 1m Istd gs in Oct 2018 LANWADES STUD NELL GWYN STAKES (GROUP 3) (FILLIES) (1)



2-11 ORCHID STAR (60) (D) 1- **QABALA** (199) (CD) 11 0213- SUNDAY STAR (186) (CD) .. G Mosse 115

(3) E Walker 3 9-0 **G Mosse 115**Runs: 4 Wins: 1 GF Places: 2 Prize Money: £14,272 **2018:** Soliloquy 3 9 0, W Buick 4/1 (C Appleby), 11 ran.

BETTING: 9-2 Main Edition, 5 Angel's Hideaway, Mot Juste, 7 Orchid Star, 8 Nashirah, Sunday Star, 11 Come On Leicester, Qabala, 12 Look Around, 14 Mistress Of Love, 20 Others

MAIN EDITION 15/8F (9-0) led, ridden over 2f out, headed 1f out, soon outpaced, weakened inside final furlong and lost 2nd 50yds out, 3rd of 9, 31/4l behind Just Wonderful (9-0) at Newmarket 7f gr2 gf in Sep 2018. ANGEL'S HIDEAWAY 13/2 (9-3) steadied start, held up in touch in last pair, closed to chase leaders 2f out, not clearest of runs and switched right over 1f out, ridden to chase leading pair 1f out, stayed on to go 2nd and pressing winner towards finish, no impression, 2nd of 8, 3/4l behind Mot Juste (9-0) at Newmarket 7f gr3 gf in Oct 2018. MOT JUSTE 12/1 (9-0) in touch, switched right over 2f out, effort to press leader entering final furlong, kept on under pressure to lead inside final furlong, stayed on gamely towards finish, ridden out, won at Newmarket 7f Gr3 gf beating Angel's Hideaway (9-3) by 3/4l. 8 ran. ORCHID STAR 1/12F (9-0) made all, shaken up and clear inside final furlong, comfortably, won at Newcastle (A.W) 1m st/slw beating Farrdhana (8-7) by 3l. 5 ran. NASHIRAH 5/1 (8-5) tracked leaders, led 2f out, headed 11/2f out, kept on same pace, 5th of 15, 3l behind Golden Jaguar (8-9) at Meydan 7f gd

4.10 BET365 BRITISH EBF MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES (PLUS 10 RACE) (4) 5f 2yo only £5,175 6 dec.

	1	(5)	5 ● ARASUGAR (17) J S Mullins 2 9-0	Hollie Doyle
	2	(3)	AROHA B Meehan 2 9-0	NON-RUNNER
	3	(2)	4 BARTAT (13) M Channon 2 9-0	S De Sousa
i	4	(6)	CHASING DREAMS (H1) C Appleby 2 9-0	W Buick
	5	(4)	GOOD VIBES PD Evans 29-0	O Murphy
Ī	6	(1)	KEMBLE R Hannon 2 9-0	S Levev

2018: Strings Of Life 2 9 0, William Buick 2/1J (Charlie Appleby), 9 ran. BETTING: 7-4 Chasing Dreams, 5-2 Kemble, 4 Arasugar, 5 Bartat, Good Vibes

45BET365 EBF FILLIES' MAIDEN STAKES (PLUS 10 RACE) (DIV II) (4) 1m 3yo only £6,469 10 dec.

1	(5)	4- ALANDALOS (118) C Hills 3 9-0	J Crowley
2	(7)	7- DINAH WASHINGTON (175) Michael Bell 3 9-0	L Steward
3	(3)	97- FAST STRIKE (183) D Lanigan 3 9-0	S Donohoe
4	(9)	LAVENDER'S BLUE Mrs A Perrett 3 9-0	R Havlin
5	(8)	78- ● MAAMORA (199) S Crisford 3 9-0	S De Sousa
6	(6)	PLISSKEN (H ¹) T Clover 3 9-0	P Cosgrave
7	(2)	PRINCESS JULIANA B Meehan 3 9-0	C Shepherd
8	(1)	RIMMAL (H ¹) J Noseda 3 9-0	J P Spencer
9	(4)	TATWEEJ O Burrows 3 9-0	D O'Neill
10	(10)	XIMENA S Farrell (IRE) 3 9-0	E J Walsh

2018: Qazyna 3 9 0, Andrea Atzeni 6/4F (Roger Varian), 9 ran.

BETTING: 3 Alandalos, 4 Rimmal, 5 Tatweej, 6 Lavender's Blue, 8 Others

DET365 HANDICAP (3)

•	-	2 miner of only 212,700 0 door	
1	(4)	94172- ● MORDRED (201) R Hannon 3 9-7	S Levey
2	(3)	5-11 MARHABAN (71) (D) C Appleby 3 9-0	W Buick
3	(5)	4-311 WAR TIGER (54) R Fahey 3 8-12	T Hamilton
4	(1)	421- SOLID STONE (160) Sir M Stoute 3 8-11	R L Moore
5	(2)	311- NEVER DO NOTHING (201) A Balding 3 8-9	O Murphy

2018: Old Persian 3 9 7, William Buick 5/2F (Charlie Appleby), 10 ran. BETTING: 2 Marhaban, 3 Solid Stone, 4 War Tiger, 9-2 Never Do Nothing, Prize Money: £25,066 5 Mordred

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Wins: 3 GF

HEXHAM

Going: GOOD (Good to soft in places)

2.10 (2m nov hdl): 1. GLINGER FLAME (Daylami-Titian Flame) (S W Quinlan) 1/2fav; 2, Mr Scrumpy (Passing Glance-Apple Days) 9/4; 3, Bobndave (Brian Boru-Sidblack) 33/1; Non-runner: Express Des Mottes. 12 ran. 2 ³/₄, 9. (N Richards). **Tote:** Win £1.40; PL £1.10, £1.10, £4.50; Exacta £2.00; CSF £2.12; Trifecta £11.30

2.40 (1m71/2f hcap chs): 1, JOHNNY YUMA (Alfred Nobel-Rossbridge Lass) (B Poste) 11/4; 2, Miss Amelia (Midnight Legend-Miss Pross) 5/2fav; 7 ran. 3 1/4, hd. (K Price). Tote: Win £3.50; PL £1.40, £1.90; Exacta £11.70; CSF £9.78; Trifecta £118.80

3.10 (2m4f nov hdl): 1, MISS DELIGHTED (Getaway-Abhainn Ri) (Ross Turner) 5/4fav; 2, Would You Bypass (Vinnie Roe-Academy Hall) 25/1; 3, **Etamine Du Cochet** (Martaline-Nuance Du Cochet) 11/8; 11 ran. 4, 9. (O Greenall). Tote: Win £2.10; PL £1.10, £5.20, £1.10; Exacta £27.80; CSF £34.72; Trifecta £59.80

3.40 (2m4f hcap hdl): 1, SOLO SAXOPHONE (Frankel-Society Hostess) (H Skelton) 4/9fav; 2, Becky The **Thatcher** (Mastercraftsman-Fairmont) 16/1: 7 ran. 1 ³/₄. 3 ³/₄. (D Skelton). **Tote:** Win £1.40; PL £1.10, £4.60; Exacta

£8.70; CSF £7.65; Trifecta £26.70 4.10 (3m hcap chs): 1, PRINCE DUNDEE (StowawayMiss Dundee) (B Campbell) 15/8fav; 2, Exit To Where (Kapgarde-Rapsodie Sea) 14/1; 3, Apache Pilot (Indian Danehill-Annie-Jo) 17/2; Non-runner: Allez Cool. 12 ran. 2 ½, 15. (Miss L Russell). **Tote:** Win £2.70: PL £1.40. £4.50, £2.50; Exacta £36.10; CSF £28.66; Tricast £186.41 Trifecta £204 50

S Levey 111

Prize Money: £25,804

4.40 (3m hntch): 1, SAUSALITO SUNRISE (Gold Well-Villaflor) (Mr A Ferguson) 11/10fav; 2, Ravished (Oscar-Fair Present) 5/2; 7 ran. 1, 9. (O Murphy). Tote: Win £1.90; PL £1.30, £1.20; Exacta £4.10; CSF £4.01; Trifecta £12.60 **5.10 (2m nhf): 1, SHANROE** (Multiplex-Pugnacious Lady) (D Jacob) 5/1; 2, **Black Ebony** (Malinas-Our Ethel) 3/1fav; 3, Miah Grace (Malinas-Silver Gypsy) 4/1; 13 ran. 5, 7. (K Thornton (IRE)). **Tote:** Win £5.40; PL £1.60, £1.40, £1.50: Exacta £29.40: CSF £18.89: Trifecta £98.50

PLACEPOT £5.10 to a £1 stake. Pool: £75,849.74 10,817.10 winning units **QUADPOT** £2.50 to a £1 stake. Pool: £6,980.44 -

1,990.66 winning units

PONTEFRACT

Going: GOOD TO FIRM (Good in places)

2.20 (5f): 1, ALMINOOR (Kodiac-Aravonian) (D O'Neill) 4/9fav; 2, **Bendy Spirit** (Helmet-Parakopi) 9/1; 7 ran. 4 ½, 1. (M Johnston). **Tote:** Win £1.30; PL £1.10, £3.50; Exacta 2.50 (1m hcap): 1, HORTZADAR (Sepoy-Clouds Of Magellan) (D Nolan) 12/1; 2, Courtside (Siyouni-Memoire) 4/1; 3, **Delph Crescent** (Dark Angel-Zut Alors) 7/1. Also: Space Bandit 2/1fav: Non-runner: Trinity Star. 9 ran. 8, hd. (D O'Meara). Tote: Win £12.80; PL £3.20, £1.40, £2.20; Exacta £66.10; CSF £59.76; Tricast £368.89 Trifecta £457.00

3.20 (5f hcap): 1, MOKAATIL (Lethal Force-Moonlit Garden) (P J McDonald) 10/1; 2, Pipers Note (Piccolo-Madam Valentine) 20/1; 3, Foolaad (Exceed And Excel-Zayn Zen) 5/2fav; Non-runner: Watchable. 9 ran. nse, nk. (I Williams). Tote: Win £11.00; PL £2.20, £4.10, £1.30; Exacta £254.90; CSF £187.60; Tricast £658.12 Trifecta

3.50 (2m51/2f hcap): 1, RUBENESQUE (Getaway-Shouette) (J Hart) 6/4fav; 2, Tynecastle Park (Sea The Stars-So Silk) 11/4; 6 ran. 2 1/4, 4 1/2. (T Davidson). **Tote:** Win £2.70; PL £1.20, £1.90; Exacta £6.50; CSF £5.60; Trifecta £15.50

4.20 (6f): 1, MELROSE WAY (Mayson-Winter's Night) (G Lee) 20/1; 2, Texting (Charm Spirit-Dreamily) 100/30; 3, Sophia Maria (Swiss Spirit-Malelane) 9/2. Also: Collect Call 11/4fav; 14 ran. shd, nk. (J Bethell). Tote: Win £29.30; PL £6.20, £1.70, £2.00; Exacta £155.10; CSF £84.94;

Trifecta £633.00 4.50 (5f hcap): 1, SOCIALITES RED (Sakhee's Secret-Tipsy Girl) (T Ladd) 3/1fav; 2, Kibaar (Pastoral Pursuits-

Ashes) 11/1; 3, Highly Sprung (Zebedee-Miss Donovan) 9/2; 9 ran. 1 1/4, 13/4. (S Dixon). Tote: Win £3.70; PL £1.50, £3.30, £1.50; Exacta £40.60; CSF £37.42; Tricast £149.13 Trifecta £193.90

5.20 (5f hcap): 1, JOHNNY CAVAGIN (Superior Premium-Beyond The Rainbow) (G Lee) 7/2; 2, Super Julius (Bated Breath-Paradise Isle) 7/2; 3, Deeds Not Words (Royal Applause-Wars) 25/1. Also: Foxtrot Knight 7/4fav; 9 ran. 1 1/4, 1 3/4. (P Midgley). **Tote:** Win £4.30; PL £1.70, £1.10, £5.90; Exacta £17.40; CSF £16.52; Tricast £266.52 Trifecta £244.60

5.50 (1m hcap): 1, CONUNDRUM (Sir Percy-Famusa) (J Garritty) 11/2; 2, Gennaro (Harbour Watch-Buzkashi) 8/1; Curfewed (Most Improved-Evening Sunset) 11/2. Also: High Contrast 7/2fav: Non-runners: Beaufort, Sarasota Star. 11 ran. 3/4, 13/4. (Jedd O'Keeffe). **Tote:** Win £6.00; PL £1.70, £3.00, £2.10; Exacta £53.70; CSF £49.34; Tricast £259.86 Trifecta £365.80

PLACEPOT £45.10 to a £1 stake. Pool: £62,551.66 -1012.21 winning units QUADPOT £12.30 to a £1 stake. Pool: £6,612.33 - 396.67

WINDSOR

winning units

Going: GOOD (Good to firm in places)

2.00 (6f hcap): 1, INCENTIVE (Stimulation-Folly Drove)

(B A Curtis) 6/1; 2, **Trotter** (Piccolo-Vintage Steps) 4/1fav; Brockey Rise (Zebedee-Age Of Diplomacy) 8/1; Non-runner: Artscape. 15 ran. hd, 1/2. (W S Kittow). **Tote:** Win £7.50; PL £2.30, £2.10, £2.20; Exacta £43.80; CSF £29.29; Tricast £204.59 Trifecta £340.50

2.30 (5f ac): 1, LAMBETH WALK (Charm Spirit-Cockney Dancer) (O Murphy) 4/5fav; 2, Dr Simpson (Dandy Man-New Romantic) 11/4; 3, **Maybellene** (Camacho-Chute Hall Lady) 25/1; 14 ran. 2 1/4, 1 1/4. (A Watson). **Tote:** Win £1.70; PL £1.10, £1.50, £7.70; Exacta £4.50; CSF £2.73; Trifecta £56.10

3.00 (5f hcap): 1, BELLEVARDE (Kodiac-Pearl Mountain) (Hollie Doyle) 25/1; 2, The Daley Express (Elzaam-Seraphina) 7/1; 3, Puds (Bated Breath-Missy Wassie Gal) 7/1. Also: Enthaar 4/1fav; 13 ran. nk, nk. (R Price). **Tote:** Win £29.60; PL £5.50, £2.40, £2.50; Exacta £206.50; CSF £190.93; Tricast £1386.39 Trifecta £2118.40 3.30 (1m2f hcap): 1, KORCHO (Toronado-Locharia) (C Bennett) 15/2; 2, **Albert Finney** (Kingman-Gertrude Bell) 4/1. Also: Gentle Look 3/1fav; Non-runners: Sam Cooke. Spencers Son. 7 ran. 1/2, 2 1/4. (H Morrison). **Tote:** Win £8.20; PL £3.30, £2.80; Exacta £35.70; CSF £36.84; Tricast £164.65 Trifecta £276.10

4.00 (1m2f): 1, TELECASTER (New Approach-Shirocco Star) (O Murphy) 10/11fav; 2, Deal A Dollar (Frankel-Cape Dollar) 7/4; 3, Future Investment (Mount Nelson-Shenir) 40/1; 16 ran. 9, 1/2. (H Morrison). **Tote:** Win £1.80; PL £1.10,

£1.10, £12.80; Exacta £3.40; CSF £2.58; Trifecta £62.00 4.30 (1m hcap): 1, WALL OF SAPPHIRE (Lawman-Bright Sapphire) (Georgia Dobie) 13/2; 2, Redemptive (Royal Applause-Hope And Fortune) 7/1; 3, Poet's Magic (Poet's Voice-Magic Destiny) 9/1. Also: Run After Genesis 4/Ifav; Non-runner: Sea Of Marengo. 13 ran. hd, 1/2. (H Palmer) Tote: Win £750: PL £2 60 £2 20 £310: Exacta £56.20; CSF £53.28; Tricast £434.94 Trifecta £474.50 5.00 (1m31/2f hcap): 1, KIRKLAND FOREVER (Sakhee-

Maystock) (Georgia Dobie) 8/1; 2, Broad Appeal (Medicean-Shy Appeal) 6/1; 3, Mobham (Teofilo-Elegant Beauty) 33/1. Also: Amaretto 9/2fav; Non-runners: Watt Broderick, Incredible Dream. 14 ran. 1 3/4, shd. (E Houghton). Tote: Win £8.00; PL £3.10, £2.70, £10.30; Exacta £69.90; CSF £55.33; Tricast £1535.69 Trifecta £2386.50

JACKPOT Not Won. £14,068.78 carried forward to

PLACEPOT £167.20 to a £1 stake. Pool: £91,283.96 -398.33 winning units

QUADPOT £58.00 to a £1 stake. Pool: £8,558.55 - 109.12

TRAMORE

Abaoned following heavy overnight rain



O'Brien: 'You can't afford to give yourself a pat on the back'



Sharp sense of humour: There is another side to Joseph O'Brien away from the business of winning races hilarious sketch of O'Brien - which he has watched - where he says, "I'd go crazy if he won, I'd probably stay up till half nine drinking cans, of Fanta," but it's clear he is a character behind it all.

The similarities with his father's mannerisms are obvious, especially when debriefing with his work riders having gone through their usual routine up Owning Hill, just outside Piltown.

His facilities are much different than the equine-utopia of his father's Ballydoyle yard, however, with the gallops rising 340 feet from start to finish - the

'Your best-cast scenario is that you're winning with 25per cent of your horses'



SUCH is the way of the world, every bit of information which Joseph O'Brien needs about his horses can be accessed through his mobile phone. And it's hopping from half six every morning.

O'Brien is part of various WhatsApp groups for each of the barns in his Kilkenny yard - where he houses around 120 horses – which details information about different horses like whether they've eaten up overnight and if temperatures are as they should be.

Messages are regularly coming through his walkie-talkie – connecting him directly to his various staff - while his phone lights up every minute during conversation as some type of data drops to his inbox to help aid efficiency.

It's that level of detail which has helped the 25-year-old make an extraordinary transition from the saddle to the training ranks and ensure that he's already well on the way to replicating his success as a jockey.

Each of the last three years has seen a remarkable milestone achieved with

Rekindling's Melbourne Cup success followed by Latrobe's Irish Derby win last year, while he notched two Cheltenham Festival winners last month.

All of that comes on the back of a riding career which saw him crowned Irish champion jockey twice, as well as bagging the Epsom Derby on two occasions, before being forced to give best in his battle with the scales in 2016.

He admits he gets "a far bigger kick out of training" than riding but success comes as a surprise to him, despite his father Aidan being champion trainer 26 times between Flat and jumps, while mother Ann-Marie was also champion jumps trainer in 1992/'93.

"I didn't expect to have near the suc-

cess that we have had. We've had a remarkable couple of years and I didn't even dream of getting close to the big winners that we've had, it's been unbelievable. It's all downhill from here," O'Brien says with a smile.

With younger brother Donnacha also expected to hang up his saddle in the not-too-distant future and possibly take out a training licence, O'Brien jokes that that could spell "my second retirement before 30".

Time spent in his company illustrates a wit that the cameras doesn't show. When there's races to be won, it's all business but when things are in neutral, there's a sharp sense of humour. Impersonator Conor Moore does a

S W Kelly

D Muscutt

D Probert

R Downey

C Bishop

L Morris

R Hornby

Toby Eley (7)

Aaron Jones (3)

110-acre site is built on the side of a hill where cyclist Seán Kelly used to climb as part of his training – and it means he has to tinker a lot of things, but with the same success.

There's no fear of him resting on his laurels and the while the jumps is coming to a close, O'Brien is already kneedeep in the Flat season and he has no intention of slowing down.

"You can't look back. No matter how well it looks like you're doing from the outside, there's no big win streaks like some big sportspeople go on in other sports. Your best-case scenario is that you're winning with 25pc of your horses so you can't afford to look back and give yourself a pat on the back."

(ROI - 1560 600 760. NI - 0901 2930 845) £1.27/£1.02 p/min. Calls from other networks and mobile cost more. 18+.

Going: GOOD

LIVE ON RACING UK

	CAPT KEEN	TRAV CORR
2.05	Blackjack Kentucky	Dolphin Square
2.40	Here's Herbie	Renwick
3.15	Melekhov	Quick Wave
3.50	You Say What	One Of Us
4.25	Come On Charlie	Tudors Treasure
5.00	Theatre Territory	Drumlynn
5.35	Whenhellbrokeloose	Whenhellbrokeloose

2.05 FOLLOW @RACINGTV ON TWITTER NOVICES' DHURDLE (4) 2m51/2f 4yo plus £4,224 9 dec.

	1	225120	ASK	DILLON	(34) (D)	F O'Brie	n 6 11-5		P Brenna
Ξ							erson 6 11-5		K K Woo
	3	P-4811	● D	OLPHIN S	SQUAF	RE (29) (C	P Hobbs 51	1-5 N	1r D Maxwell (
	4	-32164	MR	PUMBLE	CHOO	K (58) A I	(ing 5 11-5		W Hutchinso
) P Nicholls 6	10-13	H Cobd
Ξ	6	0-760	OFF	ICERNISI	I (105) (I	H) JSM	ullins 6 10-13		Kevin Jones (
0	7	6/P	SPA	NISH STA	RLIN	G (15) S D	avies 7 10-13		C Hammond (
	8	038	FLO'	WING CA	DENZ	A (26) R	Buckler 5 10-6	,	J Be
	9	785	OYS	TER PER	CH (21)	R Buckle	er 5 10-6		C Gethin
2	018	: Maste	r Tom	mytucker	7 11 5, 1	Harry Col	den 4/5F (Pa	ul Nich	olls), 7 ran.
_								~~ .	D.II 0 0 1 1

BETTING: 9-4 Dolphin Square, 3 Blackjack Kentucky, 100-30 Ask Dillon, 9-2 Mr Pumblechook, 6 Boldmere, 20 Others

2.40 LIKE RACING TV ON FACEBOOK HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 2m21/2f 4yo plus £7,148 8 dec.

1 115332 MASTER WORK (24) (CD) P Hobbs 6 11-12	T O'Brien
2 -12260 NELSON'S TOUCH (59) J S Mullins 6 11-8	Kevin Jones (3)
3 16-033 MALACHITE (46) N Henderson 6 11-6	N De Boinville
4 6-2151 RENWICK (17) (TP) D Skelton 6 11-5	H Skelton
5 736764 MAGNA CARTOR (173F) Dr R Newland 9 11-4	C Hammond (3)
6 814334 ● HERE'S HERBIE (2) (T) (CD) S Gardner 11 11-2	J Best
7 -41603 BANG ON (39) J Scott 6 11-1	Matt Griffiths
8 87-802 HATTAAB (7) H Oliver 6 10-3	Jason Dixon (7)

2018: Rainy Day Dylan 7 11 11, Noel Fehily 9/2 (Neil Mulholland), 11 ran. BETTING: 4 Hattaab, Renwick, 9-2 Master Work, 6 Bang On, Malachite, 9 Here's Herbie, 10 Magna Cartor, Nelson's Touch

3.15 JOIN RACING TV NOW MAIDEN HURDLE (5) 2m1f 4yo plus £3,249 14 dec.

1	1003	GRANITIC (39) J S Mullins 6 11-4	J McGrath
2	37-76	HERE'S BINGO (335) S Gardner 6 11-4	J Best
3	211-42	MELEKHOV (36) (D) P Hobbs 5 11-4	R Johnson
4	805	NINEOHTWOONEOH (24) P Nicholls 5 11-4	H Cobden
5	5-86F0	RAVING BONKERS (47) M Keighley 6 11-4	H Stock (5)
6	F-6	ROCOCO RIVER (86) Mrs J Williams 5 11-4	Lizzie Kelly (3)
7	9070	VINNIE ROUGE (17) N Mulholland 5 11-4	P Donovan (7)
8	P	WOODUKHELEYFIT (43) Miss E Lavelle 5 11-4	L Aspell
9		SALAZAR (152F) S Davies 4 10-13	C Hammond (3)
10		CORRUPTION (157) A Dunn 5 10-11	T Scudamore
11	1-	FIRST DESTINATION (618) (D) R Stephens 7 10-11	T O'Brien
12		● QUICK WAVE (405) Miss V Williams 6 10-11	S Bowen
13	0P-0	TRYSOR YNYS (15) E Williams 6 10-11	M Bastyan (5)
14	5F	TIMASSINI (28) E Williams 4 10-6	A Wedge

BETTING: 7-2 Quick Wave, 4 Melekhov, 13-2 Timassini, 15-2 Nineohtwooneoh, Rococo River, 10 Granitic, Trysor Ynys, 14 Raving Bonkers, 16 Here's Bingo, 18 First Destination, 20 Others

50 CHASE (3) 3m61/2f 5yo plus £12,996 11 dec.

1 F1-026 S	SNUFF BOX (10) Miss V Williams 8 12-2	C Deutso
	DANCING SHADOW (28) (B) (C, BF) V Dartnall 10	11-12 J Be
	LEN BRENNAN (40) T Vaughan 6 11-11	A Johr
	PLANTAGENET (35) (P) J S Mullins 7 11-11	D Sansom (
	BERTIE BORU (23) (C) C Gray 12 11-6	T O'Brie
	YOU SAY WHAT (23) (TB ¹) (C) D Pipe 9 11-4	T Scudamoi
	SANDHURST LAD (26) (P) (BF) W Greatrex 8 11-3	R Johnso
8 -52522 (Twiston-Davie
9 4-P4P4 I	KILCULLEN FLEM (33) (TP1) P Kirby 9 10-12	T Dowson (3
10 947623	THE HAPPY CHAPPY (18) (TV) Mrs S Humphrey 8	310-9 S Bowe
11 5-21P1 S	STEEL NATIVE (24) (H) D Rees 8 10-5	R Patrick (3

2018: Spookydooky 10 11 7, Richard Johnson 7/2 (Jonjo O'Neill), 6 ran. BETTING: 4 One Of Us, Sandhurst Lad, 6 Len Brennan, Plantagenet, 8 Dancing Shadow, Snuff Box, Steel Native, 10 Kilcullen Flem, The Happy Chappy, 12 Others

2 SEVERY RACE LIVE ON RACING TV HANDICAP

T • L • CHASE (5) 2m3f 5yo plus £4,224 10 dec.	
1 P11233 COME ON CHARLIE (12) (D) P Hobbs 7 12-0	R Johnson
25U34U7 ALL KINGS (36) R Buckler 10 11-12	D Jacob
3 552554 FULL SHIFT (12) R Brotherton 10 11-9	B Poste
4 FFP471 TUDORS TREASURE (23) (CD) R Stephens 8 11-9	T O'Brien
5 8-3336 KILINAKIN (78) (P ¹) Miss Z Davison 9 11-6	J Best
6 60-073 KINGSTON MIMOSA (28) (P) M Gillard 7 10-1	D Hiskett (5)
7 022052 RULE THE OCEAN (21) (T) M Sheppard 9 10-1	Mr C Todd (7)
8 -64P69 ● ST MERRYN (106) B Summers 8 10-0	C Hammond (3)
9 5885P5 GILLY GRACE (23) (P) J Frost 9 10-0	W Kennedy
10 6-P76P EDDIES PEARL (99) B Forsey 9 10-0	R Dingle (5)

2018: Kavanaghs Corner 9 10 5, Conor Shoemark 2/1 (Simon Earle), 5 ran. **BETTING:** 5-2 Tudors Treasure, 5 Kilinakin, Kingston Mimosa, 6 Come On Charlie, Rule The Ocean, 10 Gilly Grace, 12 All Kings, 14 St Merryn, 20 Others

↑TOTNES & BRIDGETOWN CO LTD NOVICES' **HUNTERS' CHASE (6)** 3m 5yo plus £1,872 6 dec.

1 3-P611 IM ALL SET (12) (P) Mrs C Hitch 10 12-0	Mr D Prichard (3)
2 261363 MASTER SUNRISE (19) (P) (D) A Ralph 10 12-0	Mr James King
3 22-1P3 DRAFT PICK (24P) (P) J M Ridley 6 11-10	Mr Z Baker
4 13-1P2 DRUMLYNN (49) (W) (BF) L Harvey 8 11-10	Mr D Edwards
5 33P 424 KIT BARRY (12) (P ¹) D Dando 11 11-10	Mr C Dando (7)
6 -24238 ●THEATRE TERRITORY (10) (P) W Greatrex 9	11-3

Mr S Waley-Cohen

2018: Palmaria 8 11 3, Mr William Biddick 5/2J (Caroline Keevil), 8 ran. BETTING: 2-7 Theatre Territory, 9-2 Drumlynn, 14 Im All Set, 20 Others

P2P BUMPER MAIDEN NH FLAT RACE • **50** (**AMATEURS) (4)** 2m1f 4-6yo only £3,249 11 dec.

1 5-P21 GETABUCK (16P) P Mason 6 11-12 Mr P Mason (7) 2 12U MERCHANT HOUSE (16P) L Jefford 5 11-12 Miss Millie Wonnacott (7) 3 2 THE GALLOPING BEAR (24P) B Clarke 6 11-12 Mr A Lex Edwards 4 1 WHENHELLBROKELOOSE (37P) A King 6 11-12 Mr A Lex Edwards 5 P5U113 WOODBROOK BOY (37P) J Hanlon (IRE) 5 11-12 Mr T Hamilton 6 2 FULL OF ROQUE (37P) T Vaughan 4 11-7 Mr Morgan Winstone (7) 7 1 GRUMPY CHARLEY (24P) C Honour 4 11-7 Mr B Carver (7) 8 24 REFLEX ACTION (24P) J Tickle 4 11-7 Mr D Andrews (7) 9 53 SPECTACULAR RIVAL (37P) Miss H Brookshaw 4 11-7 Mr W Biddick 10 3UO WESTERN WHISKEY (16P) D Summersby 4 11-7 Mr Liam Harrison (7) 11 3 MOUNT NELLY (52P) D Pipe 5 11-5 Mr Fergus Gillard (7)					
3 2 THE GALLOPING BEAR (24P) B Clarke 6 11-12 Mr M Legg 4 1 WHENHELLBROKELOOSE (37P) A King 6 11-12 Mr Alex Edwards 5 P5U113 WOODBROOK BOY (37P) J Hanlon (IRE) 5 11-12 Mr T Hamilton 6 2 FULL OF ROQUE (37P) T Vaughan 4 11-7 Mr Morgan Winstone (7) 7 1 GRUMPY CHARLEY (24P) C Honour 4 11-7 Mr B Carver (7) 8 24 REFLEX ACTION (24P) J Tickle 4 11-7 Mr D Andrews (7) 9 53 SPECTACULAR RIVAL (37P) Miss H Brookshaw 4 11-7 Mr W Biddick 10 3UO WESTERN WHISKEY (16P) D Summersby 4 11-7 Mr Liam Harrison (7)	1	5- P 2 1	GETABUCK (16P)	P Mason 6 11-12	Mr P Mason (7)
4 1 WHENHELLBROKELOOSE (37P) A King 6 11-12 Mr Alex Edwards 5 P5U113 WOODBROOK BOY (37P) J Hanlon (IRE) 5 11-12 Mr T Hamilton 6 2 FULL OF ROQUE (37P) T Vaughan 4 11-7 Mr Morgan Winstone (7) 7 1 GRUMPY CHARLEY (24P) C Honour 4 11-7 Mr D Andrews (7) 8 24 REFLEX ACTION (24P) J Tickle 4 11-7 Mr D Andrews (7) 9 53 SPECTACULAR RIVAL (37P) Miss H Brookshaw 4 11-7 Mr W Biddick 10 3UO WESTERN WHISKEY (16P) D Summersby 4 11-7 Mr Liam Harrison (7)	2	12U	MERCHANT HO	USE (16P) L Jefford 5 11-12	Miss Millie Wonnacott (7)
 5 P5U113 WOODBROOK BOY (37P) J Hanlon (IRE) 5 11-12 Mr T Hamilton 6 2 FULL OF ROQUE (37P) T Vaughan 4 11-7 Mr Morgan Winstone (7) 7 1 GRUMPY CHARLEY (24P) C Honour 4 11-7 Mr B Carver (7) 8 24 REFLEX ACTION (24P) J Tickle 4 11-7 Mr D Andrews (7) 9 53 SPECTACULAR RIVAL (37P) Miss H Brookshaw 4 11-7 Mr W Biddick 10 3UO WESTERN WHISKEY (16P) D Summersby 4 11-7 Mr Liam Harrison (7) 	3	2	THE GALLOPIN	G BEAR (24P) B Clarke	6 11-12 Mr M Legg
 2 FULL OF ROQUE (37P) T Vaughan 4 11-7 Mr Morgan Winstone (7) 1 GRUMPY CHARLEY (24P) C Honour 4 11-7 Mr B Carver (7) 24 REFLEX ACTION (24P) J Tickle 4 11-7 Mr D Andrews (7) 53 SPECTACULAR RIVAL (37P) Miss H Brookshaw 4 11-7 Mr W Biddick 3UO WESTERN WHISKEY (16P) D Summersby 4 11-7 Mr Liam Harrison (7) 	4	1	WHENHELLBR	OKELOOSE (37P) A Kin	g 6 11-12 Mr Alex Edwards
7 1 GRUMPY CHARLEY (24P) C Honour 4 11-7 Mr B Carver (7) 8 24 REFLEX ACTION (24P) J Tickle 4 11-7 Mr D Andrews (7) 9 53 SPECTACULAR RIVAL (37P) Miss H Brookshaw 4 11-7 Mr W Biddick 10 3UO WESTERN WHISKEY (16P) D Summersby 4 11-7 Mr Liam Harrison (7)	5	P5U11 3	WOODBROOK	BOY (37P) J Hanlon (IRE) 5 11-12 Mr T Hamilton
 24 REFLEX ACTION (24P) J Tickle 4 11-7 Mr D Andrews (7) 53 SPECTACULAR RIVAL (37P) Miss H Brookshaw 4 11-7 Mr W Biddick 3UO WESTERN WHISKEY (16P) D Summersby 4 11-7 Mr Liam Harrison (7) 	6	2	FULL OF ROQU	E (37P) T Vaughan 4 11-7	Mr Morgan Winstone (7)
 53 SPECTACULAR RIVAL (37P) Miss H Brookshaw 4 11-7 Mr W Biddick 3UO WESTERN WHISKEY (16P) D Summersby 4 11-7 Mr Liam Harrison (7) 	7	1	GRUMPY CHAP	RLEY (24P) C Honour 4 1	1-7 Mr B Carver (7)
3UO WESTERN WHISKEY (16P) D Summersby 411-7 Mr Liam Harrison (7)	8	2 4	REFLEX ACTIO	N (24P) J Tickle 4 11-7	Mr D Andrews (7)
	9				
11 3 MOUNT NELLY (52P) D Pipe 5 11-5 Mr Fergus Gillard (7)	10	3 U 0	WESTERN WHI	SKEY (16P) D Summersby	411-7 Mr Liam Harrison (7)
	11	3	MOUNT NELLY	(52P) D Pipe 5 11-5	Mr Fergus Gillard (7)

2018: Billygwyn Too 5 11 5, Connor Brace 7 9/1 (J W Tudor), 8 ran. BETTING: 5-2 Whenhellbrokeloose, 9-2 Mount Nelly, 5 Grumpy Charley, 11-2 Full Of Roque, 7 Woodbrook Boy, 11 The Galloping Bear, 12 Getabuck, 20 Others

(ROI - 1560 600 760. NI - 0901 2930 845)

Going: STANDARD

LIVE ON SKY SPORTS RACING

5.45 FOLLOW TOP TIPSTER TEMPLEGATE AT SUN PROBLEM 1 SECTION 1 SECTION

1	(8) -57864	GABRIAL'S KAKA (3) (D) P Morris 9 9-7	P Mathers
2	(10) 2-3150	ARROWZONE (43) (B) (CD) K Frost 8 9-7	J Hart
3	(13) 82742 7	AQUA LIBRE (17) (P) (C) J Candlish 6 9-6	J Fanning
4		AMOR FATI (19) (C) P D Evans 4 9-6	Nicola Currie
5	(6) 3-9299	SCENERY (3) Mrs M Fife 4 9-5	L Morris
6	(11) 657 80-	HIGHLAND BOBBY (26J) D O'Meara 4 9-5	S A Gray
7	(3) 3-7426	STAND N DELIVER (34) (V) Clive Cox 5 9-5	A Kirby
8	(2) / 5 6- 6 2	● CAPE AGULHAS (32) W Martin (IRE) 5 9-4	S W Kelly
9	(4) 04519 5	UBLA (3) (E/S) (CD) Miss G Kelleway 6 9-4	W Cox (3)
10		LUKOUTOLDMAKEZEBAK (17) (P) D Thompson	
11	(7) 00-25 5	ZARKAVON (19) (P) J Wainwright 5 8-7 Faye N	IcManoman (5)
12	(12) 7470- 7	CAPTAIN MARMALADE (71) J Fox 7 8-7	T Hansen (5)
13	(1) 0-4645	GONE WITH THE WIND (20) (P) (CD) R Bastin	nan 8 8-7
			Dhil Dannia

2018: Spiritual Star 9 8 13, Paddy Bradley 5 9/1 (Lee Carter), 12 ran. BETTING: 5 Amor Fati, 11-2 Gabrial's Kaka, 13-2 Stand N Deliver, 7 Cape Agulhas, 8 Gone With The Wind, Ubla, 9 Aqua Libre, 10 Highland Bobby, Zarkavon, 11 Lukoutoldmakezebak, 12 Arrowzone, 20 Others

Stand N Deliver Amor Fati 6.15 Indian Affair **Mystical Moon** 6.45 Nooshin 7.15 Just That Lord 7.45 **Lopes Dancer**

2018: The Cannister Man 6 10 12, Charlie Deutsch 3/1 (Sam Thomas), 12 ran.

6.15SUNRACING.CO.UK H 7f 4yo plus £3,105 12 dec.

		, ,
1	(10) 811145	NARALSAIF (34) (V) (CD) D Shaw 5 9-5 P Mathers
2	(9) 706611	MYSTICAL MOON (11) (C) D Griffiths 4 9-4 Phil Dennis
3	(12) 600-70	FORMIGA (22) (T) S Durack 4 9-4 R Da Silva
4		BAZZAT (826) (P) C Moore (IRE) 6 9-4 Mark Crehan (7)
5	(7) 050216	CLEMENT (5) (V) (D) Mrs M Fife 9 9-4 (4x) L Morris
6	(1) 1 0- 3 9 7	MAGICAL MOLLY JOE (5) (H) (CD) TD Barron 59-3 PJ McDonald
7	(11) 98- 5 1 6	SEAFORTH (22) (CD, BF) A Wintle 7 9-3 Finley Marsh (3)
8		● BLUE ROCKS (19) (B) (C) Mrs L Williamson 5 9-3 S Cronin (5)
9	(6) 68175 6	INDIAN AFFAIR (22) (TV) (CD) J M Bradley 9 9-3 S W Kelly
10	(8) 74290-	MURAADEF (213) Mrs R Carr 4 9-3 J Sullivan
11	(3) 873768	LITTLE MISS DAISY (15) W Muir 5 9-3 Nicola Currie
12	(2) 03007-	PRINCE OF TIME (132) (CD) S Barclay 7 9-2 Dylan Hogan (5)

2018: Lord Murphy 5 9 7, Andrew Mullen 4/1J (Mark Loughnane), 10 ran. **BETTING:** 3 Mystical Moon, 5 Clement, Naralsaif, 6 Magical Molly Joe, 8 Seaforth, 10 Muraadef, 14 Blue Rocks, Formiga, Indian Affair, 20 Others

6.45 LADBROKES HOME OF THE ODDS BOOST FILLIES' NOVICE STAKES (5) 7f 3yo plus £3,752 12 dec.

0-1 INVITATIONAL (101) (D) R Varian 3 9-4

Nooshin	
Kyllang Rock	
Alabaster	
Herm	
HANDICAP (6)	

6 (2

8 (12

11 (1)

J Mitchell

3-2 ● NOOSHIN (24) C Hills 3 8-11 Hayley Turne 2018: Beshaayir 3 9 5, James Doyle 1/5F (William Haggas), 8 ran. BETTING: 3 Nooshin, 7-2 Vivionn, 4 Sonja Henie, 13-2 Moneta, 7 Invitational,

14- LADY MADISON (201) R Hughes 3 9-4

41- SONJA HENIE (153) (D) M Botti 3 9-4

81- VIVIONN (210) (D) Sir M Stoute 3 9-4

68- ASTROLOGER (125) D O'Meara 3 8-11

7 GONBUTNOTFORGOTTEN (11) P Mcbride 3 8-11

49 DI MATTEO (36) M Botti 3 8-11

JUMEIRAH E Houghton 3 8-11

5-2 MONETA (24) (T¹) J Portman 3 8-11

3 LADY SCHANNELL (36) M Botti 3 8-11

U- LOVEATFIRSTLIGHT (202) J Unett 3 8-11

10 Lady Schannell, 14 Di Matteo, Lady Madison, 20 Others **15**BETWAY CONDITIONS STAKES (3) 5f 4yo plus £7,159 7 dec.

_	•		jo pias 27,107 7 acci	
			● CORINTHIA KNIGHT (24) (CD) A Watson 4	9-6 E Greatrex
	2	(3) 60140-	STORM OVER (178) (CD) G Scott 5 9-6	H Bentley
Ξ	3	(2) 7 5- 1 7 3	TROPICS (54) (H) (C ,D) D Ivory 11 9-6	A Kirby
Ε	4	(4) -643 48	GRACIOUS JOHN (4) (CD) PD Evans 6 9-2	T Marquand
Ε	5	(1) 4 6 0- 1 6	JUST THAT LORD (18) (CD) M Attwater 6 9-2	L Morris
	6		KYLLANG ROCK (339) (D, BF) J Tate 5 9-2	P J McDonald
	7	(5) 4 7-48 1	REFLEKTOR (19) (C,D) T Dascombe 6 9-2	R Kingscote

2018: Doctor Sardonicus 7 9 6, Martin Harley 3/1 (Tom Dascombe), 5 ran. BETTING: 2 Kyllang Rock, 3 Tropics, 4 Corinthia Knight, 7 Gracious John, 8 Reflektor, 12 Storm Over, 14 Just That Lord

7.45BETWAY LIVE CASINO HANDICAP (4) 2m1/2f 4yo plus £5,531 7 dec.

1 (4) 755352 ALABASTER (22) (V) Sir M Prescott 5 9-11

_					
	2	/2\	1/1217	SEINESATIONAL (152) (V) W Knight 4 9-9	David Egan
		(2)			Daviu Lyan
	3	(6)		LOPES DANCER (55) H Bethell 7 9-7	J Fanning
	4	(1)	1 2- 5 27	● COUNTRY'N'WESTERN (16) R Eddery 7 9-5	D Keenan (5)
	5	(5)	1 606 /5	UNCLE BERNIE (78) (P) (CD) S Hollinshead 9 9-3	2
					G Malune (3)
	6	(2)	33 2-70	BLACK NOAH (35) J Farrelly 4 9-0	D Probert
	7	(7)	08-434	KNIGHT COMMANDER (14) (T) S Flook 6 8-7	R Da Silva
	2018	8: W	estern W	/ay 9 9 4, Rossa Ryan 5 4/1 (Don Cantillon), 8 ran.	

BETTING: 5-2 Alabaster, 4 Knight Commander, 5 Seinesational, 11-2 Lopes Dancer, 7 Country'N'Western, Uncle Bernie, 10 Black Noah

8 15BETWAY HANDICAP (6)

l	U	•		II/Zf 4yo plus £3	,105 13 000	, ,,		
l				SIR GEORGE SO			Davies 6 9	7 L Kenir
ı	2	(5)	4 3 4 4- 8	CAT ROYALE (24	1) (V) (C) J	Butler 6 9-5		A Kirb
ı				GRASMERE (152			DI	Keenan (5
ı				● HERM (19) (C)				Marquan
ı				FINAL ATTACK (
l	6	(11)	224 1 9-	ALLUX BOY (174)(P)(C) N	Tinkler 5 9-2	Faye McMa	anoman (5
ı	7	(6)	00-090	THA'IR (5) (T) (C	D) P Mcbrid	de 9 9-2		D Broc
l	8	(2)	-4 0 6 2 2	VOICE OF A LE	ADER (17) (H	1) (CD) P Ho	owling 89-2	J Hayne
١	9			PENNY GREEN				
ı	10	(7)	-145 58	SPLASH OF VE	RVE (18) (C,	D) D Thomp	son 7 9-1	F Norto
l	11	(8)	4237 2 /	EUGENIC (541)	Mrs T Barfoo	ot-Saunt 8 9-	-1 Hay	ley Turne
١	12	(4)	4-0225	FIRST CALL (18)	(P) P Morri	s 4 9-0	D	avid Ega

13 (3) 83-554 BORN TO REASON (13) (B) (CD) K Frost 5 8-12 D C Costello 2018: Windsorlot 5 9 5, George Downing 6/1 (Tony Carroll), 12 ran. BETTING: 4 Herm, 9-2 Cat Royale, 6 Voice Of A Leader, 7 First Call, 15-2 Final Attack, 9 Allux Boy, 10 Born To Reason, 12 Splash Of Verve, 14 Grasmere, L Morris 16 Eugenic, Sir George Somers, 20 Others

Carlow primed to fight trio's bans in effort to save season

Michael Verney

CARLOW have not taken the cumulative 44-week bans to football boss Turlough O'Brien, coach Steven Poacher and stalwart Brendan Murphy lying down and will appeal the suspensions in the coming days.

The hefty bans, handed down by the GAA's Central Hearings Committee (CHC) last week, arose following Carlow's agonising defeat to Down in their penultimate Division 3 tie last month.

The Barrowsiders lost by a solitary point in Netwatch Cullen Park on March 16 which ultimately condemned them to relegation when a draw would have retained their Division 3 status.

O'Brien (pictured) was slapped with a 20-week ban after a Central Competition

Controls Committee (CCCC) investigation laid charges against him for "threatening conduct" aimed at Cork referee James Bermingham.

Video footage shows Bermingham being confronted in the seconds following the final whistle when an injury-time free after the allotted period of stoppage-time clinched victory for Paddy Tally's side.

Poacher and inspirational midfielder Murphy also received 12-week suspensions - also for "threatening conduct" towards the referee - in what constitutes as a huge blow to Carlow's prospects this summer.

If these rules are enforced stringently, the suspended trio would not be permitted to take any part in training sessions or games for the duration of their bans, although this is rarely strictly enforced by

The logistics of being without their manager and coach, as well as one of their finest talents, would be a hammer blow ahead of opening their Leinster SFC campaign away to the winners of Meath/Offaly at the quarter-final stage on May 25.

Carlow chiefs fought back and lodged appeals to the Central Appeals Committee (CAC) over the weekend with their cases likely to be heard this week as they hope to get championship hopes back on track.

Should their appeal to the CAC fall on deaf ears, the final stop would be to appeal to the Disputes Resolution Authority (DRA), a body which operates independently of the GAA.

Meanwhile, the awards keep coming for Limerick hurling star Aaron Gillane after the Treaty attacker was one of three Mary Immaculate College players named in the Fitzgibbon Cup team of the year.

Fitzgibbon Cup champions UCC dominate the selection with eight players, however, as Kerry's Shane Conway was named Hurler of the Year, while another Kingdom star, Seán O'Shea, won Footballer of the Year and was one of six representatives of champions UCC.



GAA president John Horan with Stephen Doherty at the announcement of Western Alzheimers, Down Syndrome Ireland, the Marie Keating Foundation, Enable Ireland and Focus Ireland as the association's charity partners for 2019

Double cruciate blow for Cooney's Lake men

Michael Verney

WESTMEATH football boss Jack Cooney must plan without Jamie Gonoud and Finbar Coyne for the rest of the year as they begin their rehabilitation from cruciate knee ligament injuries.

The Lake men have lifted O'Byrne **Cup and Division 3 honours already** this season under Cooney but Gonoud and Coyne will play no part in their Leinster SFC bid as they face nine months on the sidelines.

"It's disappointing for the two lads, but the important thing is that they have their surgery and start their rehab with a view to regaining full fitness for next year," Cooney said.

Meanwhile, Clare footballer Ailish Considine has signed a new contract with the Adelaide Crows after the Kilmihil star played a leading role in their recent AFLW Grand Final win.

McCormack keeps Tokyo in sights after marathon PB

Cathal Dennehy

FIONNUALA McCORMACK took a huge step forward on the road to the Tokyo Olympics with an excellent 11th-place finish at the Boston Marathon yesterday, her time of 2:30.38 carving 44 seconds off her lifetime best.

McCormack fell just six seconds shy of a top-10 finish, the result she had been craving given it would have meant automatic qualification for the 2020 Games. The race came iust six months after McCormack gave birth to her daughter Isla and was her first marathon since the Rio Olympics in 2016.

While she came up just shy of Olympic qualification, her time,

coupled with the bonus points she received for 11th place, will slingshot her up the world rankings, introduced this year as an additional qualifying method.

If McCormack can post one decent half-marathon or marathon result in the next 14 months or run below the time standard of 2:29:30, she will secure a spot at her fourth successive Games.

Just over a fortnight ago she finished a superb 18th in the World Cross-Country in Denmark, and when it comes to the marathon her best days look to be ahead. Ethiopia's Worknesh Degefa took the women's title yesterday in 2:23.31, with Kenva's Lawrence Cherono winning the men's race in 2:07.57.

FACTFILE

TODAY'S SPORT

RACING Newmarket 1.15, Exeter 2.05, Wolverhampton 5.45. **GREYHOUND RACING** Shelbourne Park 7.55. Tralee 6.57.

BASKETBALL

EASTERN CONFERENCE PLAY-OFFS - Rd 1: Boston Celtics 84 Indiana Pacers 74 (Boston lead series 1-0), Milwaukee Bucks 121 Detroit Pistons 86 (Bucks lead

WESTERN CONFERENCE PLAY-OFFS - Rd 1: Portland Trail Blazers 104 Oklahoma City Thunder 99 (Portland lead series 1-0), Houston Rockets 122 Utah Jazz 90 (Rockets lead series 1-0).

GAELIC GAMES

SELECTIONS

ELECTRIC IRELAND HE GAA RISING STARS FOOTBALL TEAM 2019: M Reid (St Mary's); B O'Beaglaoích (UCC), K Mc Donnell (NUIG), G O'Sullivan (UCC); C Kiely (UCC), D O'Brien (UCC), C O'Shea (UCD); J Óg Burns (St Mary's), P Lucey (UCC); M Langan (LYIT), S O'Shea (UCC), P Cooke

(NUIG); S McConville (St Mary's), E O'Carroll (UCD), S McGuigan (St Mary's).

ELECTRIC IRELAND HE GAA RISING STARS HURLING TEAM 2019: E Cahill (Mary Immaculate); N O'Leary (UCC), E Gunning (UCC), T Grimes (Mary Immaculate); C O'Leary (UCC), P O'Loughlin (UCC), C Crummey (DCU); C Browne (UCC), J Mannion (GMIT); S Kingston (UCC), A Gillane (Mary Immaculate), J Bergin (DCU): E Niland (NUIG), S Conway (UCC), M Kehoe (UCC).

WORLD RANKINGS

1 D. Johnson (USA) 10.01pts. 2 J. Rose (Fng) 9.20. 3 B Koepka (USA) 8.96, 4 R Mcliroy (Nirl) 8.32, 5 J Thomas (USA) 8.04, 6 T Woods (USA) 7.74, 7 F Molinari (Ita) 7.43, **8** B DeChambeau (USA) 7.24, **9** X Schauffele (USA) 6.56, 10 R Fowler (USA) 6.00 Others in Top 100: 50 S Lowry (Irl) 2.41.

RACE TO DUBAI POINTS

1 K Kisner (USA) 1606.50, 2 S Lowry (Irl) 1335.10, 3 J Harding (RSA) 1303.30, 4 I Poulter (Eng) 1253.50, 5 L Oosthuizen (RSA) 1241.60, 6 F Molinari (Ita) 1014.80, 7 B DeChambeau (USA) 991.60, 8 X Schauffele (USA) 957.50, 9 K Kitayama (USA) 913.00, 10 R Sterne (RSA) 902.30. Others in Top 100: 84 P Dunne (Irl) 185.20.

US TOUR MONEY LEADERS

1 R Mcliroy (Nirl) 4,854,964; 2 M Kuchar (USA) 4,649,744; 3 X Schauffele (USA) 4,470,840; 4 D Johnson (USA) 3,925,219; 5 B Koepka (USA) 3,526,317; 6 P Casey (Eng) 3,199,473; 7 F Molinari (Ita) 3,027,438; 8 G Woodland (USA) 3,020,845; 9 R Fowler (USA) 2,853,167; 10 T Woods (USA) 2,804,717.

Others in Top 100: 56 G McDowell (NIrI) 1,101,353.

GREYHOUND RACING

TONIGHT'S CARDS **SHELBOURNE PARK (7.55)**

525 - Cozimo Jack (6th 27.0L 28.74 SPK), **Beechview**

Pearl (6th 20.0L 29.66 SPK), Rappers Lucy (1st 3L 18.41 NWB), Kit Valentine (5th 16.25L 29.92 SPK), Maxhunter (5th 15.5L 30.03 MGR), Granarda Milly (5th 14.5L 29.52 NWB).

525 - Inas Tina (2nd 5L 19.12 SPK), Kilmessan Mast (4th 9.5L 30.04 MGR), Rathvilly Paudie (3rd 7.5L 29.58 SPK), Torricelli (2nd 8L 29.2 SPK), Orange Bernie (1st 2.25L 22 DLK), Gainstown Path (1st 1L 30.46 MGR)

525 - Mantis (4th 11.0L 29.14 NWB), Beechview Puma (4th 6.0L 29.42 SPK), **Booleighs Lad** (5th 7.0L/sh 29.62 KKY), **Freddie For Sam** (4th 10.5L 28.91 SPK), **Da Vinci Pixi** (5th 19L 30.95 MGR), **Gainstown Power** (5th 19L/ sh/nk 30 24 MGR)

350 - Razzamatazza (1st 0.5L 19.22 SPK), Lodgefield Kim (4th 5.0L 17.67 NWB), Fantasy Bert (2nd 0.5L 19.22 SPK), Universal Red (1st NA 17.8 NWB), Lough Tiger (3rd 1.5L 19.22 SPK), Rosey Ructions (4th 2.0L/

525 - Cookies N Cream (4th 5.0L 29.42 SPK), Olwinn Return (3rd 5.5L/nk 29.01 SPK), Five Ten (2nd 5.5L 29.01 SPK), Coolronan Amy (4th 5.5L/nk/nk 29.01 SPK), Boynepark Laz (1st 5.5L 29.01 SPK), Glenbrien Flight (2nd 2.5L 29.42 SPK).

525 - Paradise Mata (1st nk 29.38 SPK), **Forest Luke** (1st 2.5L 29.42 SPK), **Darbys Lad** (3rd 3L/nk 29.38 SPK). Tudors Luck (3rd 4.0L 29.42 SPK), Tymon Wildcat (4th 4.5L/nk 29.38 SPK), Glenbrien Rescue (2nd nk 29.38 SPK).

525 - Starshinesparta (3rd 9.0L 28.84 SPK), Olwinn Millie (2nd nk 28.93 SPK), Glencloy Gold (1st nk 28.93 SPK), Da Vinci Kane (2nd 6.5L 28.84 SPK), Tinnock Simba (1st 6.5L 28.84 SPK), Skeough Girl (3rd 1.5L/

525 - Pearl Spectre (5th 15.0L/sh 29.82 MGR), Fatboyz Izzie (5th 9.5L/nk 29.3 SPK), Tandom (5th 8.5L/nk 28.75 SPK), **Burrow Socks** (6th 15.5L/nk 30.71 NWB), Shays Gift (2nd 3L 29.4 SPK), Malbay Romeo (2nd 8L 19.24 SPK).

525 - Banker Material (5th 5.75L/hd 18.98 SPK). Chajam (1st NA 17.87 NWB), Clana (2nd 1L 30.46 NWB), Baytown Evie (6th 10L/sh/sh 28.93 SPK). Puckane Vic (5th 17.5L 31.83 SPK), Fire Girl (5th 8.501 /nk 29.07 GLY)

Floating res: Bag Lady Shauna, Evas Smurph, Costly Fly, Ballymoney Jan, Bit View Gina, Shady Dot, Killisky Duke, Cozimo Jet, Black Marble Sky, World Apart, Blackbird, Beechview Snap, Abrakebabra Soda, Power Tony, Orange Maeve, Kansil Sky, Curly Sasha, Rileys Ridge, Gin And Ice, Whatyadoin, Our Mate Vincie, Messenger, Alex Jayjay, Eire Nua, Finnery Sparks.

525 - Valarian Prince, Knocknaboulnidge, Kates Diary. Labana Gooch, Teevee Lassie, Sporting Harry, 325 -Mohane Giselle, No News Now, Paddys Tally Ho, Oak Gift, Omega Bay, Black Mechanic. 525 - Teevee Allie, Manhattan Chimes, Kilmore Dawn, Lassinagh Grand, Katelyns Choice, Ossy Wink. 525 - Carmac Maura, Hide And Seek, Stayaway Ace, Faithful Boris, Pony Anna, Oak Lemon. 525 - Boomtown Tony, Spirit Makruma, Glow Bullet, Knockeen Ridge, Tallulah Jones, Lybes Destiny. 325 - Oak Cherry, Knockunder Brody, Steeple Rd Jet, Rathronan Blitz, Spirit Sonia, Toremore Rising. 525 - Manhattan Sky, Lassinagh Rebel, Payyaway Clio, Millridge Jodi, Garrison Post, Lenas Poppy. 525 - Gulleen Harry, Kit Commando, Lassa Excitement. Tokenfire Abbie, Niamhs Big Mike, Looster Baxter. **525 -** Anascaul Blackie, Millridge Milo, Ballyverane Boy, Send It Seasons, Mayfly, Youngfellathanks. 525 -Pumpkin Brandy, Pull Like Garry, Curryhills Oisin, Leaha Floating res: Conaic View Lord, Shronedraugh Act,

Emily, Wompa Woman, Irremore Phebe.

Tilemaster Dec, Uberrima Fides, Toronto Ruth, All Bar One, Kilcurra Deacon, Corrib Rose, Ballymac Roy.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

CLONMEL

Powerful Mush 7/4f 29.25; Serene Buddy 5/2 30.62; Marshals Cross 2/1cf 16.43; Rathclough Chloe 4/5f 29.17: Good Champ 4/5f 28.68: Five Alley Tim 6/4f 29.34; Loskeran Tommo 3/1 29.20; Killiney Jet 5/2 29.34; Lexie The Bullet 5/2 29.00.

MULLINGAR

True Destination 3/130.35; Springwell John 5/230.15; Carraundulkeen 2/1 30.25; Bective Abbigail 4/1 30.15; Abbeyville Bobby 5/2 30.39; Horseleap Frank 5/2 30.43; Bective Julie 5/2 30.29; Ramors Magic 2/1 29.93; Ginmoll 9/2 30.24; Curryhills Dado 5/4 30.61.

Sporting Connell 4/1 29.68; Leahys Dakota 4/1 29.59; Airport Guest 11/4 29.53; Anascaul Jimmy 5/2 29.27; Gallarus Lisrona 3/1 29.49; Steeple Rd Magic 4/1 29.01; Pennylane Star 6/4 f 29.52; Yesterdays News 4/1 29.28.

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS

LONGFORD

Rainmaker 1/2 29.81; Fleetwood Minor 2/1 29.84; Head Beetler 2/1 29.62; Coolronan Joey 6/4 18.45; Robbies Bunty 2/118.22; Combined Effort 18.11; Sellout Craytur 18.19; Grandcoulee Lake 29.47; Castleroggy Duke 29.77; Bumblebee Cooney 30.05; Slipalong Pearl 30.34; Croaghill Lassie 29.35.

ENNISCORTHY

No results provided.

YOUGHAL No results provided.

ICE HOCKEY

EASTERN CONFERENCE PLAY-OFFS - Rd 1: Columbus Blue Jackets 3 Tampa Bay Lightning 1 (Columbus Blue Jackets lead series 3-0), Pittsburgh Penguins 1 New York Islanders 4 (New York Islanders

WESTERN CONFERENCE PLAY-OFFS-Rd 1: St Louis Blues 3 Winnipeg Jets 6 (St Louis Blues lead series 2-1), Vegas Golden Knights 6 San Jose Sharks 3 (Vegas Golden Knights lead series 2-1).

TENNIS

MONTE CARLO MASTERS Monte Carlo, Monaco

Rd 1: (16) D Goffin (Bel) bt G Andreozzi (Arg) 6-1 6-4,

J Munar (Spa) bt L Catarina (Mon) 6-0 6-3, M Klizan (Svk) bt F Delbonis (Arg) 7-6 (7-3) 7-5, **(13)** F Fognini (Ita) bt A Rublev (Rus) 4-6 7-5 6-4, R Albot (Mol) bt A Bedene (Slo) 6-4 6-2, L Sonego (Ita) bt A Seppi (Ita) 7-6 (7-4) 6-4, D Sebastian Schwartzman (Arg) bt (17) K Edmund (Gbr) 4-6 6-3 6-1,

(10) D Medvedev (Rus) bt J Sousa (Por) 6-1 6-1, D Lajovic (Ser) bt M Jaziri (Tun) 6-4 6-4, M Fucsovics (Hun) bt (12) N Basilashvili (Geo) 7-5 3-6 6-1, R Bautista Agut (Spa) bt J Millman (Aus) 3-6 6-1 6-1, (11) M Cecchinato (Ita) bt D Dzumhur (Bih) 4-0 ret, J-L Struff (Ger) bt (15) D Shapovalov (Can) 5-7 6-3 6-1, P Kohlschreiber (Ger) bt T Daniel (Jpn) 6-1 6-3, M Kukushkin (Kaz) bt J Chardy (Fra) 6-3 6-4.



LENGTH of Tiger Woods's shadow obscured any other narrative rolling up out of Augusta on Sunday night, so frustration at another lost Major for Rory McIlroy never quite found compelling traction.

Much like Rory himself over the four days, the appetite just wasn't quite there. His week finished on the ninth green, all the roars distant and, most probably, a little emptying. McIlroy, the pre-tournament favourite, was never a factor in the 83rd Masters, three rounds in the seventies rendering Sunday's closing 68 largely meaningless.

Just a reminder of what he can do and, more pertinently, what might have been. Rory finished tied 21st, eight shots back on Woods and, truth to tell, never remotely close to working his way into contention. "My game is still there," he said afterwards, reminding us how he'd played the par fives in 11-under par for the week, a terrific stat, but bettered by big-hitters who were there to the end with Tiger like Tony Finau, Brooks Koepka, Xander Schauffele and Dustin Johnson.

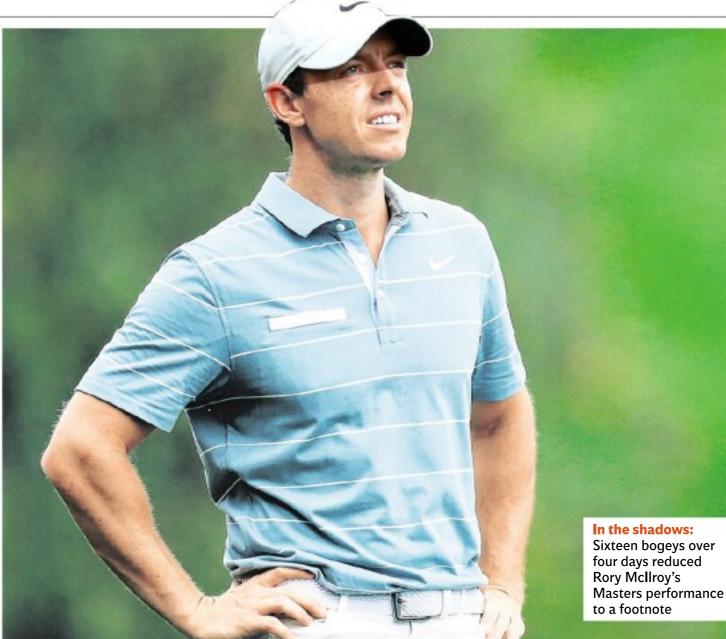
McIlroy's high error-count was the difference. Sixteen bogeys in four days reduced him to a footnote in this Masters, all that familiar pre-tournament talk of the career Grand Slam seeming ever so slightly tiresome now.

III-conceived

On Saturday, desperately needing a low score, McIlrov hit some awful, ill-conceived shots for a player of his calibre, his front nine lurching into a deeply frustrating mix of weak swings and bewilderingly bad decisions. He talked afterwards of "mud balls" making iron play difficult on a rain-softened course, but Finau covered that same, opening stretch in a six-under par 30 shots, just missing an eight-footer on the ninth to break Augusta's front-nine record.

It's an accepted wisdom here that the course's real scoring opportunities present themselves once you step off the eleventh green. Yet Finau. Patrick Cantlay, Webb Simpson, Xander Schauffele and Rickie Fowler all made hay on Saturday's front nine.

Rory, by contrast, reached the turn in two-over, 38 shots when – by his own estimation – he needed something closer to 33. He was out of position off the tee on two (par); essentially drove the green on three but took three shots



McIlroy finds Grand Slam strain too difficult to bear

Scruffy, indifferent play and a sense of over-thinking the challenge at hand proves Holywood star's downfall once again in the Masters

to get down (par); inexplicably missed the sixth green left, despite a left pin position with everything falling from the right side (bogey); missed the seventh fairway left (bogey); missed the eighth fairway left (this time in trees) (par); flopped his approach to nine into a horrible bunker lie (bogev).

It was scruffy, indifferent golf.

Every time McIlroy looked like getting momentum, he'd instantly relinquish it. Interviewed on Sky afterwards, he observed - completely unsolicited – that he hadn't "read anything". As if the golf world was consumed by an idea that some loose media comment might have gotten under his skin and been responsible for another lost Masters opportunity. The truth is that Rory himself seemed guilty of deepening the psychological challenge of chasing that career Grand Slam last week rather than – as he clearly intended – diminishing it.

It seemed strange to see him on the range and putting with green with Dr Clayton Skaggs, the Jupiter-based chiropractor, performance coach and founder of the Central Institute for Human Performance. While most of his contemporaries had swing coaches by their side, Rory had Dr Skaggs.

Now it's a relationship that didn't do him much harm in the opening months of the season, so it would be unfair to depict it as anything especially unconventional. But there was a distinct sense last week of Rory exploring the mental puzzle facing him at a US Masters a little too earnestly. Almost of over-intellectualising the process of staving calm.

At the same time, someone like Koepka could reply "nothing, absolutely nothing" when asked on Friday evening to explain what he's been thinking on Saturday as Masters leader.

There was a moment, walking down the fifth on Saturday, when McIlroy seemed to be almost in a private place. Having just birdied four and launched a huge drive, he marched almost 50 yards ahead of playing partner Marc Leishman and their two caddies, arms pushed out in front of him, palms facing the sky.

It was the closest he'd come to frontnine momentum in the third round only to then bogey three of the next five. Three birdies and an eagle on the back nine would ultimately be spoiled by two more bogeys. That made it 14 bogeys in his opening three rounds.

By Saturday evening, Molinari had precisely half that figure for his previous 162 holes of tournament golf.

McIlroy's mistakes were coming in multiples then. Sure his 11 birdies and two eagles from those opening three rounds compared favourably with the leaders' assaults on par - Molinari 14 birdies; Finau 12 birdies, one eagle; Woods 16 birdies; Koepka 16 birdies, one eagle; Dustin Johnson 12 birdies; Ian Poulter 13 birdies.

Ledger

It was the other side of the ledger that looked ugly. McIlroy 14 bogeys; Molinari one; Finau three; Woods five; Koepka six, plus a double; Johnson four and Poulter four.

Errors are inevitable in a high-stress environment and there's a sense that Augusta now presents McIlroy with a set of circumstance that is complicating things. For as long as he continues travelling to North Georgia in April, the career Grand Slam will be the context of his pursuit of the green jacket. Until and unless he wins one.

McIlroy kept talking up the positives in his game last week and, no doubt, that will have been with Dr Skaggs' approval. Even on Saturday night, that was his message. That the tournament wasn't over for him, even though it's 29 years since anybody won from further back than fifth after 54 holes.

He talked about the Augusta rough being "about a quarter or half an inch longer than it usually is" and it being "hard to get control of your ball out of it." Bad news for someone hitting fewer than 60pc of the Masters fairways. He stressed that his game wasn't lacking anything worrisome and that he would learn plenty from the disappointment.

But the end of tournament stats would reveal a multitude: like a 25pc return from sand saves; like just 63pc of greens hit in regulation.

McIlroy said that, given his time back, he'd now probably play the week before Augusta, given what felt a lack of sharpness in his game. And, asked had it been much of a let-down not to be a factor in the tournament, his response sounded a little practised. "Honestly it's OK," he said. "It seems like you guys are more disappointed than I am. I'm good." And he may, of course, be right.

But, even through the worst of his troubles, it was hard to imagine those words ever falling from the lips of Tiger Woods.

Rejuvenated Tiger has 'got me shaking in my boots' - Nicklaus

Brian Keogh

TIGER WOODS mania is in full swing again with even Jack Nicklaus admitting he's shaking in his boots as the now five-time Masters champion closed in on his 18-Major haul with that win for the ages at Augusta.

The excitement generated by Woods' incredible comeback from devastating injury and personal problems to win his 15th Major is now such that demand for tickets for Royal Portrush briefly collapsed The Open website in the hours after his first Major win for 11 years.

Woods is now the favourite to win the US PGA at Bethpage State Park's famed Black Course in May and with the US Open set for another venue where he has won before, Pebble Beach in June, he's the only man who could complete the grand slam this year as The Open returns to Royal Portrush.

Ben Hogan won the Masters, the US Open and The Open in 1953 – the famed Triple Crown - but was unable to go for the Grand Slam as the US PGA overlapped with that year's Open at Carnoustie.

But Woods, who won the US Open

by 15 strokes at Pebble Beach in 2000 and triumphed at Bethpage when capturing his eighth Major in the US Open in 2002, is clearly a sportsman that you write off at your peril.

He's now just three Majors away from matching Nicklaus' haul of 18 hence the increased interest in Royal Portrush – and even the Golden Bear admits that he's got him worried after stopping a fishing trip in the Bahamas to watch Sunday's action.

"I've felt for a long time he was going to win again," Nicklaus told Golf Channel on Sunday night. "And, you know, the next two Majors are

at Bethpage, where he's won and at Pebble Beach, where he's won. So, you know, he's got me shaking in my boots, guys."

Nicklaus said that in a light-hearted tone but he genuinely believes Woods is capable of getting to 18 given the course management brilliance and coolness under pressure he displayed on Sunday.

"I sat down and watched them fill up the water at number 12," Nicklaus said. "I was sitting there Molinari was two shots in the lead when I turned it on and good gracious, it was a good club, club and a half short. And

I watched the rest of it." The Golden Bear has been asked about Woods' 'ad nauseam' for more than 20 years, but he insists he wishes him well ahead of what is shaping up to be an unforgettable summer.

"I don't ever pull against anybody," he said. "Nobody wants their record to be broken, but I certainly wouldn't want Tiger to be hurt and not able to do it.

"Of course, now he is now pretty healthy and I wish him well. I always wish the guys well. I want them to play their best, I don't ever want anyone to play poorly."

O'Mahony: 'Munster are

a different

animal now'

But skipper insists best display of season will be needed against

'exceptional' Saracens outfit

IN BRIEF

Edwards turns down Wigan job

WALES defence coach Shaun Edwards has reversed his decision to become Wigan Warriors head coach at the end of the season.

The rugby league team announced last August that Edwards (52) would be the new coach of his home-town club on a three-year contract after this year's World Cup in Japan.

However, British media have reported that Edwards is set to extend his 11-year stay with Wales after winning the Six Nations Grand Slam this year as part of Warren Gatland's backroom staff.

"I will not be taking up the head coaching role at Wigan, the reason being my lack of preparation," Edwards said. "World Cup preparations have been brought forward a month and, as a result, I will be unable to spend eight weeks in Australia as planned on rugby league."

SNOOKER

Doherty and O'Brien miss out on Crucible

KEN DOHERTY and Fergal O'Brien's hopes of making this weekend's World Championships ended yesterday at the penultimate stage of qualification.

The Ranelagh cueman (49) suffered a 10-4 defeat to Scotland's Scott Donaldson (25), following O'Brien's 10-4 loss to Mark Davis.

Antrim's Jordan Brown also failed to make the Crucible following his dismal 10-0 thrashing to China's Lvu Haotian.

Jimmy White, who knocked out Youghal's Ross Bulman in the first round, bowed out after Ali Carter reeled off six consecutive frames to close out a 10-4 win and progress to the final round.

RACING

Tramore abandoned after bad weather

TRAMORE'S scheduled Monday meeting had to be abandoned following an inspection early yesterday morning.

After heavy rain at the course on Sunday, and with a forecast for more to come, it was announced a precautionary inspection would take place.

Horse Racing Ireland confirmed via Twitter shortly after 8am that the seven-race card would not go ahead.

CYCLING

Next year's Giro to start in Budapest

THE 2020 Giro d'Italia will begin in Budapest in the latest move by the organiser, RCS, to expand the reach of the iconic race.

It will be the 14th time the Grande Partenza has been hosted outside Italy in the race's 111-year history, and the first time a Grand Tour has visited Hungary.

The race begins with three **Hungarian stages which showcase** the capital city, before returning to Italy after a rest day. It will finish in Rome.

RÚAIDHRÍ O'CONNOR



A YEAR ago, Peter O'Mahony sat in a sweltering room beneath the Stade Chaban Delmas in Bordeaux and said he was sick of learning lessons.

Another European semi-final had come and gone without Munster firing a shot. Racing 92 were off to Bilbao and the wait for a Champions Cup showpiece appearance went on.

Like so many of his team-mates, O'Mahony was reared on the sight of the Red Army making finals.

His teenage years were spent cheering on the team of the 2000s and as the anointed successor to Paul O'Connell, he has borne the burden of captaining the ship well without quite managing the final step.

The current crop have become a consistent presence in the top four of the European elite despite the retirement of that legendary generation of

This is his third successive semi-final, their fifth in seven seasons, and they are impatient.

Once again they face a formidable foe in Saracens. Clermont, Toulon, Saracens and Racing have blocked their paths in O'Mahony's time, but he is convinced that this year Munster are better placed than ever.

Emotional

"Post-match interviews in a game like that are different. At the time they are emotional and all that stuff for the work you put in," he said of last year's comments.

"We put in a lot of work over the past 12 months and I think that we are a different animal to what we were; further down the track.

"Don't get me wrong, we are under no illusions as to how it is going to be. We are definitely a better side than we were last year. That gives us great confidence.

"We have big battles this year, games in which we have gone behind, big games that we have ground out; a draw in Exeter.

"You don't look back a huge amount but they are things that you draw strength on over a season to gather that momentum and confidence.

"We have built nicely but it all counts for nothing unless you perform at the weekend. That's what we are looking for, a performance.

"We know that if we perform as well as we can we can mix it with the best

but these guys and Leinster are the best, Toulouse... They are three of the biggest names in Europe without a shadow of a doubt.

"It's not really a surprise that they are back in semi-finals. For us to be here to get another shot is exactly where we want to be talking about at this time of the year.

"Again, it is going to have to be our best to be mixing it."

What, he is asked, has changed? "I think our game-plan has improved," he said.

"We have a few more strings to our bow with regard to our attack. Our defence is getting there certainly. We have conceded the least amount of tries of anyone in this competition so far.

"We are working hard but can get

better. We have certainly grabbed a bit of confidence from the last couple of months; hopefully that will stand to us at the weekend.

"The new guys have had a massive impact. I don't have to name them off, but guys like Tadhg (Beirne), Joey (Carbery), Alby (Mathewson)... there's a group who've come in.

"The group that are here have learnt a huge amount and kicked on as well and we've found a good balance.

"Look at last weekend away in Treviso, a difficult place to go and play at the moment... we had a younger team out, you know, guys who haven't had a chance in a while and go behind (and produce) a super performance. That gives us great confidence as a squad.

"You need a bit of luck with regard

to fitness certainly to win these competitions.

"You need a bit of luck in games but you need your squad to be fit and you need your squad to be playing and training well; we're lucky we have that at the moment, the last four games we've won I think and that stands to you.

"They've certainly been an integral part of the kind of building of confidence and some good performances."

Saracens are a familiar foe, even if O'Mahony befriended many of their players on the 2017 Lions tour.

Two seasons ago, the English side proved far too strong for Munster at the Aviva Stadium en route to their second successive title and the Munster skipper is an admirer of the way

Wallabies and Cheika stand firm over 'disrespectful' Folau

ISRAEL FOLAU'S hopes of featuring at this year's World Cup appear to have been extinguished as the Australian Rugby Union stand firm in their decision to stand down the controversial star, who proclaimed that hell awaits for "drunks, homosexuals, adulterers, liars, fornicators, thieves, atheists and idolaters."

The world-class full-back was set to be a major part of Michael Cheika's plans, but the Wallabies head coach has supported the union's desire not to have him selected.

Folau has since come out and said that he is prepared to walk away from rugby if it means standing by his deeply religious beliefs.

"I think as it stands right now... you wouldn't be able," Cheika said, when asked if Folau could be selected as things stand.

All Blacks' McKenzie ruled out of World Cup

DEFENDING champions New Zealand have been dealt a significant blow as utility back Damian McKenzie has been ruled out for the World Cup after he ruptured his ACL playing for the Chiefs on Saturday.

The 23-year-old, who can play at out-half or full-back, was set to play a key role for Steve Hansen's side.

"But getting it out in that disre-

part of the team.

"It looks like he could be out for eight to nine months, which is a real shame for him," Hansen said. "His World Cup opportunity is gone [but] he'll still be young enough to make probably the next two."

Elsewhere, Wales out-half Gareth Anscombe will move from Cardiff Blues to the Ospreys at the end of the season.

"We had a discussion after the last time and made it pretty clear about what our team is about. his right to believe and our support in that, if that's what he wants, to be

spectful manner publicly is not

"When you play in the gold jersey, we represent everyone in Australia. **Everyone that is out there support**ing us, we don't pick and choose."

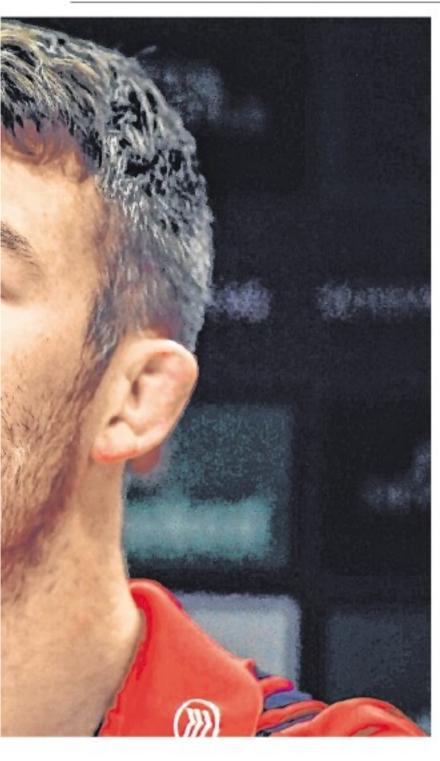
Folau's comments had already caused friction within the Wallabies squad as he clashed with flanker David Pocock, who fundamentally disagreed with his views on homosexuality. Pocock's fellow Australian flanker Michael Hooper echoed Cheika's sentiments when asked if he felt comfortable playing alongside Folau.

"Like was said before, in this current state and being here and talking about this as a rugby player, it makes it hard, it makes it difficult.

"It's frustrating having to stand here because I can't speak for Israel, but it is part of the team celebrating our diversity and celebrating that in a respectful manner."

All Blacks coach Steve Hansen also voiced his opinion, adding that Folau had "let himself down."





Ready for action: Munster captain Peter O'Mahony in reflective mood yesterday BRENDAN MORAN/ **SPORTSFILE**

We are in a better place this year, warns Sarries head coach McCall

CIAN TRACEY



IT'S Monday afternoon of the biggest week of the season and it is time to set the tone for what is to come this weekend.

Saracens head coach Mark McCall is taking a conference call with a group of Irish journalists and before anyone gets a chance to jump in on the burning issue, it is made clear that no questions regarding Billy Vunipola will be answered.

With his Northern Irish lilt, the softly-spoken McCall (above) insists that he would rather just speak about the game and in an ideal world that would be fine, only it is difficult to ignore the elephant in the room.

Since Vunipola came out and defended Israel Folau's controversial comments, McCall has had the bat away the inevitable barrage of questions regarding his star No 8. The club have since formally warned Vunipola about his future conduct.

Addressed

It's the last thing that the former Ireland international wants to be dealing with ahead of his side's Champions Cup semi-final with Munster on Saturday, yet it is an issue that won't go away any time soon.

While McCall opted not to discuss the matter, he did at least confirm that Vunipola is available for selection, which confirmed that no disciplinary action involving any kind of suspension was on the cards after discussions were held on Sunday.

On to matters on the pitch, which is what the agenda should be dominated by this week as Munster look to end their semi-final hoodoo against a rejuvenated Sarries outfit under McCall, who continues to do an outstanding job.

Munster feel that they have made significant strides since being beaten at the same stage of the tournament



by Saracens two years ago, but the problem Johann van Graan's men face is that their opponents are also hurting from last season, when they were humbled by Leinster in the quarter-final.

"We know that Munster, Leinster and Ulster all have great affinity with this competition and over the last six or seven years our squad have also fallen in love with the competition," McCall insists.

"It was tough, losing in the quarterfinal last year. We deserved to be beaten. Leinster were outstanding.

"But I think it made our group, after winning the two finals the two years before that, really hungry to do well this season. It was a painful experience the way we lost in the Aviva. That said, I think this group have grown to love this competition.

"This is our sixth semi-final in seven years, which is something we can be proud of, but we want to go all the way. There was definitely a renewed hunger this season.

"I think some of the Premiership teams might target the Premiership, but I know our group see this as the pinnacle and a competition they really, really want to do well in."

Munster will be buoyed by their performances against English opposition during the pool stages as they emerged from a tough group that included Exeter Chiefs and

Gloucester. And that is where the majority of Saracens' focus will lie this week as opposed to their last meeting with Munster in 2017.

"I always think it's dangerous to look back too far, to be honest," McCall maintains. "I would be much more concerned with looking at their recent performances. Just how tough they are to break down, how tough they are to play against. It's difficult to get quick ball against them.

"Their defence is the area that I see as the thing that they have most improved. It's difficult to win setpiece ball against them and I think they have added some strings to their bow in attack.

"So just a really good all-round team and they did a very good job at home to Exeter, who are flying in our competition over here and I think Exeter scored a try after seven or eight minutes that day and then kept them scoreless apart from that, which was a hell of an achievement.

Fundamental

"There is no obvious weaknesses. They do the fundamental things brilliantly, so we know we are in for a really tough challenge on Saturday."

Having won back-to-back titles before Leinster knocked them off their perch last season, there is a renewed vigour about Saracens, even if Vunipola's off-field antics are a totally unwanted distraction.

"It was funny last year, when we got to that quarter-final, Ireland were off the back of winning the Grand Slam," ex-Ulster boss McCall adds.

"England were off the back of a difficult season, so both groups of players came back with different frames of mind.

"We had some players who weren't around for that match; Billy being one, Michael Rhodes being another, Vincent Koch and a few others.

"I think we are a bit healthier this time around. We have more or less got the squad that we want available

"I think we are in a better frame of mind than we were last year."

"Does it give you an insight? Yeah, it gives you an insight into how

good they can be mentally and their thought process on the game, which is useful in some ways.

these guys really are behind their per-

they think about the game and their

regard to their thinking of the game, forward-thinking, game-plan thinking. I was very impressed.

"I have to say I was very impressed

"The Saracens players, across the

board, were very impressive with

with the English players across the

board," he said of the Lions tour.

"In other ways, you know how good

"You see it at the weekend, but how

have some very good structures, good

guys on the pitch leading it and a great coaching staff.

"You certainly get a good insight into it and I was very impressed with it. You learn a huge amount from the way they approach the game and how they implement it. You see that at the weekends and it's very impressive.

"It's going to be an 85-90 minutes battle, their fitness is exceptional, their game-plan is very, very difficult to combat.

"It's going to have to be the performance of the year from us in every aspect of our game.

"Their fitness is certainly I reckon the best in the Premiership, well up there in Europe if not the best in Europe as well, so you know, 85 min-"I think they have a good club. They utes is certainly the way it's going to run at the weekend."

Contepomi wary of threat posed by Toulouse young gun Ntamack

Rúaidhrí O'Connor

THE intelligence-gathering never stops. They have played each other twice already this season and the entire Leinster coaching ticket travelled to Paris to take in Toulouse's quarter-final win over Racing 92 for good measure, but Leo Cullen and Co will still be trawling through footage for an edge against their French opponents ahead of Sunday's semi-final.

At least it's entertaining viewing for the analysts. Last weekend, the four-time European champions welcomed Clermont to Le Stadium and served up a rip-roaring 47-44 victory.

Sofiane Guitone's try saved Ugo Mola's side from their third defeat in 23 games and extended their lead over Clermont at the top of the Top 14 to eight points.

And it came amidst a slew of changes, with Romain Ntamack (right) consigned to the bench. When he was introduced, the

vouthful France star scored a try and helped rescue the result. Still only 19, Ntamack has been the

break-out star of the season. He's far from the finished article, but his ability to break games open has grown as he gets more time on the pitch at the top level.

With France, he's been playing at out-half but Toulouse prefer to deploy him in the midfield with Zach Holmes pulling the strings at

In January, Leinster were able to expose some of his defensive weaknesses but he already looks a more rounded player.

Felipe Contepomi was a player who shifted around the backline when needed and the Leinster assistant sees plenty of promise in the French starlet.

"I think he's a very talented guy... I've been lucky that I've played most of my career in club rugby as No 10 so when you play as 10 and have the capability to play 12, it's much easier to switch from 10 to 12 then do it the other way around," he says.

"The other way around is very difficult so if Toulouse see him as a 10 and play him week in, week out as a 10, yeah, put him as a 10 and he will be more than capable of playing at

12 in a French team.

"But it will be hard the other way around. That's my feeling.

"I can give you a lot of cases of guys who were 10s... but Juan

(Martin Hernandez) in Stade played at 15 and club level played 15, sometimes 12 so when he comes to play 10 it was harder for him the last few years, he was taken all over the places. "So as a 10 you have to playing there week

in, week out. That means that he could then play in another position, because he's

very talented. "But we'll see where his (Ntamack's) best position is, there are so many years to come and he's a very talented player.

"What I can say is that French rugby, they have some very young talented players that are coming through.

"You can talk about Ntamack but (Antoine) Belleau, the Toulon No 10, also playing.

"So there are many, many good young players. (Antoine) Dupont is only 21 and Ntamack is 19, so it's great and how he has been, as a youngster, exposed to all that rugby in the last few months, it's been unbelievable.

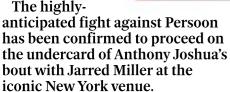
"What's his best position? I don't know yet and I think he's such a good player that he's still looking for his best position whether it is 10 or 12."

Whichever position he plays, Leinster will have to watch him closely.

Taylor gets unification shot against Persoon on Joshua bill

Harry Clarke

KATIE TAYLOR will attempt to unify the lightweight division in women's boxing when she takes on Belgium's Delfine Persoon on June 1 in Madison Square Garden.



Following her victory over Rose Volante on St Patrick's weekend to add the WBO title to her IBF and WBA belts, Persoon is all that stands between the Bray pugilist and the WBC title at 135lbs.

Speaking after her win over Volante last month, Taylor set her sights on Persoon. "That's the fight that I want next," Taylor said. "It's always been my goal to become the undisputed champion, I've got three belts now and one to go.

"She's going to be my toughest opponent to date. She's been a reigning champion for years now, she's been in the pound-for-pound rankings for years as well, so she's a fantastic champion.

"That fight has been talked about for over a year now so that's going to be an absolute super fight," Taylor added.

"She's a great champion, she's very, very fit. It's definitely going to be the toughest fight of my career and I am taking it that seriously.

"I have to be 100pc going into it she is a great champion. She's had over 40 fights and only one loss.

"She's a great fighter all round so that's going to be a fantastic fight and I can't wait for it."

Ronaldo the big threat to Ajax hopes of a fairytale

Jack Pitt-Brooke

AJAX are in the unknown now and they want to keep going. Win this and they will be in their first Champions League semi-final since 1997, when they were beaten by Juventus, back then the reigning European champions. They won that title on penalties against Ajax the previous year but that was a different football generation.

This was before Bosman, before the rise of the Premier League, before international benefactor owners. Ajax were the dukes of the old order, an order that has been washed away by foreign money, largely channelled through England.

And they have had to build a new team from a position of weakness, made of players who only know about the glory days second-hand. Matthijs De Ligt and Frenkie De Jong were not even born for the 1997 semis.

Even the players brought in last year to provide some experience are miles outside of their comfort zone. Dusan Tadic had never played in the Champions League before arriving at Ajax, the furthest Daley Blind got at Manchester United was the group stage, twice.

So all Ajax have to fall back on tonight in Turin is themselves and their ability. But the one thing they have shown this season is that they can beat any other team in the world on their day. What other lesson can

you draw from their 4-1 win at the Bernabeu last month, against the team who had just won this unrepeatable competition three years in a row?

Even in other games that they did not win – the 2-1 home defeat to Real Madrid, the two group stage draws with Bayern Munich, last week's 1-1 draw in Amsterdam - Ajax showed how at home they are at this level.

They were better than Juventus in the first leg, dominating possession and creating enough chances to win. Frenkie De Jong was the best player on the pitch, and it was not even close.

Fearless

So the question ahead of tonight's game is whether Ajax can do this all over again. Can they play the same fearless Ajax football even in this, their biggest game for a generation? Can they push eight outfield players up the pitch, leaving only the centre-backs behind, without exposing themselves on the counter? In short, can they make up in quality and bravery what they lack in experience?

Because tonight Ajax are up against the team who has been here before more than almost anyone else. Juventus, of course, lost the 2015 and 2017 finals, and are desperate to go one better this year.

So desperate, in fact, that they added Cristiano Ronaldo – five-time Champions League winner – to a team that already knew how to handle itself in these occasions. Ronaldo has already made exactly the difference Juventus wanted.

The greatest match-winner in the history of this competition scored a second-leg hat-trick against Atletico Madrid - the best defence out there to get Juventus into the quarters.

And he started and finished a counter-attack in Amsterdam to give Juventus an away goal they may well need tonight.

The last 10 years of the Champions League have been dominated by Ronaldo at the quarter-final stage: the header against Roma 2008, the longranger against Porto 2009, home and away against Atletico 2011, the hat- Juventus v Ajax, trick against Wolfsburg 2016, the clin-

ical leadership against Bayern 2017, best of all the overhead kick against Juventus 2018.

So he will be relishing the chance to give himself yet another shot at the greatest trophy of them all. He does this every year, and he will be up against a side for whom all of this is

And yet as much as we lean on experience as a decider and predictor of games we know that it is not. If it was then Aiax would not even be here.

There is always a gap in football for surprises. Ajax just have to find their way through it. (© Independent News Service)

Hoban's last-gasp spot-kick sinks Bohs

DUNDALK

BOHEMIANS

THERE was late, late drama at Oriel Park last night as Patrick Hoban's 95th-minute penalty snatched Dundalk a victory that they really didn't deserve against Bohemians.

As the game hurtled into the last seconds of injury time, the Bohs supporters who braved the teeming rain were making all the noise after watching their side's impressive display.

That all changed when Daniel Kelly was upended by Paddy Kirk and Hoban accepted the chance to send James Talbot the wrong way from 12 yards.

It was a bitter pill for the visitors to swallow. Despite making seven changes to the team that beat Finn Harps on Friday night, Bohs were much better in every department

against a Dundalk side that came into the game on the back of two straight defeats.

Starting the game 13 points behind leaders Shamrock Rovers, this was a chance for Vinny Perth's side to make up some ground and the celebration that followed Hoban's penalty was an indication of how important this goal could prove to be.

The natives almost found themselves behind after just four minutes. Keith Buckley was afforded space to pick out Danny Madriou but he couldn't keep his header on target.

The visitors knocked the ball around with zip and confidence and they passed up another gilt-edged chance to go in front with 35 minutes

Sean Hoare's slip allowed Ali Reghba to take possession on the right of the Dundalk penalty area. His cross located Kevin Devaney but he could only stab his close-range effort into the side netting.

Gary Rogers had to tip a Ryan Swan effort behind on the hour mark after an incisive run by Mandriou had the Dundalk back four back peddling with Rob Cornwall flashing a header just over from the corner that followed.

Things became stretched in the final 15 minutes and Dundalk were let off the hook again when Chris Shields coughed up possession to Mandriou but the youngster couldn't pick a pass to release Swan.

It looked like the only winners on the night would be Rovers but Oriel Park erupted when Hoban dispatched his effort from 12 yards to settle a pulsating affair.

DUNDALK - Rogers; Gannon, Hoare, Cleary; McKee (Shields 56), Flores (McEleney 59); Mountney (D Kelly 73), McGrath, Duffy, Jarvis; Hoban.

BOHEMIANS - Talbot; Lyons, Barry, Cornwall, Kirk; McCourt, Buckley; Reghba (Grant 74), Mandriou (Allerdice 90), Devaney; Swan (Byrne 86). REF - T Connolly

Defences on top in Showgrounds stalemate

0

SLIGO ROVERS

WATERFORD FC

BOTH sides left with a degree of satisfaction despite a stalemate at the Showgrounds.

The home side built on Friday's defeat of Dundalk with another good display, while the sizeable away support in the crowd of 1,528 were happy to see their side make the long journey back home with a point that keeps them ahead of their opponents.

The strong wind made any sort of decent football very difficult though the visitors had the better of the few chances created in the first half.

at Rovers 'keeper Mitchell Beeney on 30 minutes, before Scott Twine acrobatically met Jonathan Lunney's cross with a volley, but Beeney again

The early stages of the second half

promised more, with David Cawley forcing a save from Waterford 'keeper Matthew Connor with a stinging shot in the opening minute.

But Waterford had two quickfire chances to take the lead from successive corners. Firstly, Rory Feely should have done better when picked out unmarked inside the area. And then Kevin Lynch flashed an effort across the face of goal from another Zak Elbouzedi in-swinger.

Rovers called on Liam Kerrigan and Romeo Parkes from the bench and it almost paid instant dividends, as the latter set up the former inside the area, but Connor made the stop.

And the final chance went the way Ishmahil Akinade had a shot straight of Elbouzedi, whose late effort was saved by Beeney.

SLIGO ROVERS - Beeney, Dunleavy, Mahon, Leverock, Banks, Callan-McFadden, Cawley, Keaney (Parkes 67), Twardek (Kerrigan 67), Fordyce, Coughlan.

WATERFORD - Connor, Simpson, Feely, Delaney, Lynch, Hery, Duggan, Lunney (Poynton 87), Elbouzedi, Twine (Drinan 72), Akinade,

REF – J McLoughlin





Hughton backs players to bounce back

CHRIS HUGHTON believes Brighton's players will be keen to "prove a point" against fellow strugglers Cardiff tonight after making them watch footage of the humiliating 5-0 home loss to Bournemouth.

Albion's squad was called in for a team meeting on Sunday following the embarrassment of the club's biggest Premier League defeat.

Saturday's thrashing has increased the Seagulls' relegation fears going into tonight's visit of Neil Warnock's 18th-placed Bluebirds.

Cardiff could suck Brighton to

within two points of the drop zone with victory at the Amex Stadium.

"I don't think there will be any difficulty in lifting the players," said the Albion boss. "They'll want to prove a point on Tuesday - they will want to show an attitude that says they were that disappointed with Saturday.

"It was probably our worst performance of the season but this is football. There isn't one player in that changing room that wouldn't have gone through a bad defeat, a bad performance, and what it's always about is how you respond to that."

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O'Neill 90 (pen)							
	P	W	D	L	F	Α	P
Shamrock Rvs	11	9	1	1	20	5	2
Derry City	10	6	2	2	17	10	
Bohemians	10	6	2	2	9	4	2
Dundalk	10	5	3	2	13	6	
St Patricks	10	3	3	4	6	9	
Waterford	10	3	2 3 3 2 2	5	13	15	
Cork City	10	3		5	11	14	
Slino	10	3	2	5	7	13	

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE WATFORD (0) 0 ARSENAL (1) 1

Att 20,480

W D L F A Pts

Watford: Foster, Janmaat, Kabasele, Cathcart, Masina (Sema 86), menia (Success 59), Capoue, Doucoure, Hughes, Deeney, Gray. Booked: Capoue, Hughes. Dismissed: Deeney

Arsenal: Leno, Mustafi, Koscielny (Guendouzi 59), Mavropanos, Monreal, Torreira (Ozil 46), Xhaka, Mkhitaryan, Ramsey (Maitland-Niles 68),

34	26	7	1	77	20	85
33	27	2	4	86	22	83
33	22	1	10	64	34	67
33	20	6	7	66	40	66
34	20	6	8	57	36	66
33	19	7	7	63	44	64
34	14	5	15	46	45	47
33	13	8	12	41	42	47
34	13	7	14	46	44	46
33	13	7	13	47	48	46
34	12	6	16	42	52	42
34	12	5	17	49	61	41
34	11	6	17	40	46	39
34	11	6	17	42	60	39
34	10	8	16	32	43	38
33	9	9	15	39	54	36
32	9	6	17	32	51	33
33	8	4	21	28	63	28
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SPANISH PRIMERA LIGA

LEGANES (1) 1 REAL MADRID (0) 1

Leganes: Cuellar, Nyom, Bustinza, Omeruo, Siovas, Silva, Vesga (El Zhar 71), Ruben Perez, Eraso (Recio 85), Carrillo (En-Nesyri 65), Braithwaite. Real Madrid: Navas, Carvajal, Varane, Nacho, Marcelo, Valverde, Casemiro, Modric, Isco (Bale 81), Benzema, Asensio (Lucas 77). Booked: Asensio, Carvaial, Valverde

•	P	W	D	L	F	Α	Pt
Barcelona	32	22	8	2	81	31	7
Atletico Madrid	32	19	8	5	47	21	6
Real Madrid	32	19	4	9	56	38	6
Sevilla	32	15	7	10	54	39	5
Getafe	32	13	12	7	40	29	5
Valencia	22	11	16	_	26	27	4

ITALIAN SERIE A ATALANTA (0) 0 **EMPOLI** (0) **0**

SP KANSAS CITY (1) 2 NY RED BULLS (0) 2

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Kick off 7.45 unless stated UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - QUARTER FINAL - 2ND LEG Barcelona (1) v Man Utd (0) (8.00), Juventus (1) v Ajax (1) (8.00) ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP

Watford offer up gifts to Gunners as Deeney endures an off day

WATFORD

ARSENAL

Sam Dean

THERE is plenty to be gained from speaking your mind as a footballer, as Troy Deeney knows well. But there is a reason that so many stick rigidly to cliche, and it is to guard against the sort of humiliation that the Watford captain suffered here, a week after leading his club to the FA Cup final.

"Whenever I play Arsenal, I'll go up and think, 'let me whack the first one and see who wants it." So said Deeney after this fixture last season. A season later, he stuck to his word and promptly whacked Lucas Torreira.

The problem was that the whack in question was more of an elbow, and it was thrust straight into the Arsenal midfielder's face. Barely 10 minutes had passed and the striker was marching angrily down the tunnel.

It was not even the first advantage that Watford had handed Unai Emery's side. Watford goalkeeper Ben Foster had already gifted Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang the most fortuitous goal that Javi Gracia's team will concede all season, launching a goal-lines clearance straight into the Arsenal striker's boot and watching as it flew into the back of his net.

The Watford double-whammy set the tone for a night of tension and drama. The visitors can hardly be said to have made the most of the one-man advantage but they did just about enough to return to the top four.

Given their horrendous run of results on the road, Arsenal might have been forgiven for thinking they were due a bit of luck. It was Daryl Janmaat's back-pass that put Foster under pressure, but the finger of blame should be pointed only at the Watford goalkeeper.

The first touch, across his own goal, was loose. The little skip, before the

attempted clearance, was unnecessary. Aubameyang slid in, the ball smashed off his boot, and Arsenal's top scorer had his first away goal of 2019.

Deeney's dismissal made the evening feel even sweeter. Torreira was certainly caught around the face, but the Watford captain was enraged, ripping his shirt off before he had even left the pitch. If the diminutive Torreira had been taller than 5ft 6in, it might have been a legitimate shoulder barge. Instead, it had all the appearance of an elbow to the head.

It was to the credit of Deeney's team-mates, and his head coach, that Watford responded excellently. Dinos Mavropanos, the Arsenal centre-back starting his first match of the season, appeared especially nervy under pressure from Andre Gray as Watford hunted with venom.

The visitors needed Bernd Leno to remain alert between the posts. The German goalkeeper deflected Craig Cathcart's shot on to the woodwork before then springing across his goal to deny Etienne Capoue's free-kick. Responding to the growing pressure, Emery turned to Mesut Ozil to provide more composure and control in the Arsenal midfield. His side began the second half with more authority, and they nearly doubled the lead when Henrikh Mkhitaryan's close-range shot was somehow deflected wide by Foster.

Still Watford pushed, with Adam Masina launching a swerving cannon of a shot onto the top of Leno's woodwork from all of 25 yards. Gray soon found space in the penalty box but miscontrolled with only the Arsenal goalkeeper to beat, before Ainsley Maitland-Niles made a wonderful sliding tackle to prevent the Watford striker slamming home an equaliser.

Aubameyang was always prowling with menace but the one-goal lead gave Watford hope of an equaliser until the very end, when their shattered players finally collapsed to the turf. (© Daily Telegraph, London)

Toner red costs Pat's after early Derry blitz

ST PATRICK'S ATHLETIC

DERRY CITY

FIRST-HALF goals from Patrick McClean, Gerardo Bruna and Junior Ogedi-Uzokwe blitzed 10-man St Patrick's Athletic at Richmond Park to lift Derry City up to second place in the Premier Division table.

The fourth straight league win for the bang-in-form Candystripes now sets up nicely Friday's top-of-thetable clash when Shamrock Rovers visit the Brandywell.

Derry started on the front foot and were rewarded with the lead inside two minutes.

Greg Sloggett laid the ball off to left-back McClean to strike a shot that seemed to deceive St Pat's 'keeper Brendan Clarke to squirm under him into the corner of the net.

Two minutes of St Pat's indiscipline then turned the game further in Derry's favour.

An 18th-minute foul on Darren Cole brought a free-kick some 25 yards out which Argentinian midfielder Bruna whipped up and over the wall and into the bottom left corner.

A minute later, St Pat's defender Kevin Toner recklessly lunged into Derry skipper Ciaron Harkin on the halfway line to be shown a straight red card.

Derry then extended their lead further on the half hour.

Cole's flighted cross from the right found Ogedi-Uzokwe who swept home his first league goal for the

St Pat's got a goal back within two minutes, Gary Shaw, who narrowly failed to get his head on the initial cross, then met a Simon Madden diagonal ball from the right to glance a diving header past Peter Cherrie to the net.

In a slow burner of a second half,

Derry were first to threaten just before the hour mark.

Eoghan Stokes found space on the right to arc over a pacy cross which David Parkhouse flicked wide.

To their credit, St Pat's worked hard to play their way back into the game with Shaw inches wide with another header from a Madden delivery on 65 minutes; however, having played for over an hour with 10 men before earning a last-minute equaliser against Cork last Friday night, they were unable to find a second wind and spark a revival.

For Pat's manager Harry Kenny and the disappointed home support, the damage had all been done in a madcap first half.

ST PAT'S – B Clarke; Desmond, Toner, Kelly; Madden, McCabe (Coleman 45), Lennon (D Clarke 76), Clifford, Bermingham; Markey (Walker 80); Shaw. DERRY CITY - Cherrie; Cole, Kerr (Toal 88), Gilchrist, McClean; Harkin, Bruna (B McNamee 71); Stokes (Coll, 66) Sloggett, Ogedi-Uzokwe; Parkhouse.

REF - P McLaughlin (Donegal)

O'Neill spot on to leave Rebels reeling

UCD

CORK CITY

GARY O'NEILL'S dramatic injurytime penalty helped UCD to earn a sensational win over 10-man Cork.

Trailing to Seán McLaughlin's first-half goal at the break, UCD received an unexpected boost when City midfielder Garry Comerford was dismissed in the 77th-minute. A Yoyo Mahdy equaliser swiftly followed and O'Neill subsequently kept his composure to slot home a resulting spot-kick.

After Dean Clarke's late finish had denied them victory at home to St Pat's last Friday, a struggling Cork were hoping for better luck against Collie O'Neill's outfit.

And it was the visitors who eventually broke the deadlock on 35 minutes. Following Shane Griffin's precise corner on the right, centrehalf McLoughlin was on hand to scramble home.

The Leesiders continued to offer the greater threat in the final-third with Morrissey firing just wide.

However, they suffered a significant setback in the closing stages when Comerford was redcarded for a dangerous challenge on winger Neil Farrugia. This increased the tension in the south **Dublin venue and UCD wiped out** the City lead when Mark McNulty allowed Mahdy's speculative shot to slip through his fingertips on 85 minutes.

This looked set to give the hosts a share of the spoils, until O'Neill lastgasp intervention provided a final twist to the tale.

UCD - Kearns; Tobin, Collins, Scales, Dignam (Davis 82); Farrugia, Molloy (O'Farrell 72), O'Neill, Doyle, McClelland (McDonald 46); Mahdy.

CORK CITY - McNulty; McCarthy, Casey, McLoughlin, Griffin; Comerford, Morrissey; Boylan (Crowley 46), Buckley Tilley (Smith 89); Cummins (Gillam 54).

REF - B Connolly (Dublin)

Tuesday, April 16, 2019 IRISH INDEPENDENT





TALKING POINT WALLACE



Barca with point to prove spells trouble for United

Red Devils require the perfect game against club who have more at stake

HE last English team to win a Champions League knockout game at the Nou Camp were that awkward bunch at Liverpool in the mid-part of the last decade, who reached two finals, and came to Barcelona in February 2007 just as the cracks were showing in Frank Rijkaard's side.

The defending champions were beaten 2-1 by Liverpool, whose goalscorers were Craig Bellamy and John Arne Riise.

Should Manchester United do something similar in the same stadium tonight, they will be the first visiting side to win in the Nou Camp in any European game since Bayern Munich in the semi-finals in 2013.

In 2007, Liverpool lost the home leg 1-0 the following week, but prevailed on away goals. When Chelsea finals in 2012, they did so with a 2-2 draw that, achieved with 10 men, was enough after a win at Stamford Bridge.

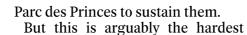
They had just 28 per cent possession, the kind of game when they could stay on the ropes and pray that Barcelona punched themselves out.

Liverpool had a bit more in 2007, 38 per cent possession, but on both occasions it was about the art of winning with less and hoping that Barcelona were below par.

Rhythm

The Barcelona of 2019 are different again, of course, even though the trend is very much that, like their predecessors, they lose very few games at home.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side have settled naturally into a counterattacking rhythm since he took over and they have their famous victory triumphed in Barcelona in the semiagainst Paris Saint-Germain at the



stadium in which to pursue that line. Solskjaer faces a different challenge to Chelsea in 2012 – he has to go for it at some point.

Asked about that approach he sounded like a man who had decided that United could not go out wondering what might have been.

He lamented that his players "didn't stamp our authority" on the first leg, although stamping authority upon Barcelona rarely means controlling the ball.

"We didn't keep the ball as well as we if United are to progress, they need knockout round, in 2014 and 2015.

should have and didn't create enough chances," Solskjaer said. "There are some freak results at times against Barca, where you (win and) have 85/15 (per cent) possession or 80/20 (in Barcelona's favour).

"We know we have to perform better than 80/20, to try to stamp our authority on the game. If you give players time on the ball, too many chances to create, you'll suffer. I hope we are not just going to be camped outside our own box."

The burgeoning school of Solskjaer mysticism was fun while it lasted but.

a plan - one that will likely involve allowing Barcelona much of the ball.

Solskjaer mentioned set-pieces more than once, and the physical power of his team in that respect. He promised his players would "run until the cramp takes them".

The early first goal against PSG in the previous round was crucial, he said, and if his players can get that then the dynamic of the game - and the tie - would be changed.

Since that Chelsea elimination in 2012, Barcelona have beaten Manchester City twice in the first



Old menacing snarl disappears as tamed Tiger finally



URING those long months of convalescence, when the pain would sizzle through his joints like electricity, when walking was a daily struggle and swinging a club still a pipe dream, Tiger Woods began to despise golf so much that he could no longer even bear to watch it.

Occasionally - perhaps during one of the big tournaments, or if a close friend was in contention he would put it on. But always on mute. And always with another TV on showing something else. For one of the greatest athletes of his generation, obsession had turned to curse.

Curiously, Woods wasn't the only person whose interest in golf was contingent on his being around to play it. As he sauntered up the 18th fairway on Sunday, the crowds a dozen deep, television executives were celebrating record ratings.

As he tapped in for his fifth Green Jacket and 15th Major championship overall, the news was already reverberating well beyond the walls of the Augusta National, well beyond the world of golf and into the world

at large. One week before Easter, the resurrection of Tiger Woods was complete.

One thing this wasn't: a shock. It may have seemed unlikely some years ago, amidst those four back surgeries, the precipitous drop to No 1,199 in the

world rankings, the footage of him being arrested at the side of the road. But the moment Woods started playing golf seriously again, there was never the slightest chance he was doing it solely for kicks.

Ever since his close run at Carnoustie last summer, his near miss at Bellerive

in the US PGA, his win at the Tour Championship, this had been coming. "I mean, we keep saying like it's surprising, but it's not," his friend Jason Day said last year. "It's Tiger Woods, for God's sake." In fact, the only thing surpris-

> ing about this triumph was the manner in which it was achieved. Not since 2005 had a player been outside the top 10 on Thursday and gone on to win. It was well documented that Woods had never come from behind after 54 holes. He didn't even claim the lead until 66 holes, and then only fleetingly. Indeed, perhaps the only conventional

aspect of Woods's win at Augusta was his customary Sunday red.

But then, perhaps it's hardly surprising that Woods doesn't win like he used to. Very little remains of the player who rewrote the rules of golf between 1997 and 2008. The swing profile has been transformed, based less on pure brute force but on an immaculate rhythm and improved alignment. The ruthless front-runner who blew tournaments apart is now just as comfortable in the chasing pack, shoulder to shoulder with the younger players who grew up watching him.

Very little remains of the man, either. The inscrutable, occasionally surly winning machine of his peak years has been replaced by a happier, more rounded individual: pain-free and seemingly carefree,





The burgeoning school of Solskjaer mysticism was fun while it lasted but, if United are to progress, they need a plan





When they have been eliminated by English opposition - Liverpool in 2007, United in 2008, Chelsea in 2012 – it has been teams on their way to winning a Champions League or having recently done so.

By contrast, these are early days in the Solskjaer reign and, unlike the PSG tie, so critical in securing his appointment, this feels less urgent. United could go out at this stage having had their European triumph for the season and there would be little

That works against United. So too that Barcelona manager Ernesto underperformed.

Valverde was able to rest players in the league game against Huesca on Saturday. After three consecutive quarter-final exits, this campaign feels especially important for Barcelona.

Were they to win it, this would be Lionel Messi's fifth Champions League, taking him level with Cristiano Ronaldo - still in the competition with Juventus.

Since Barcelona last won the Champions League in 2015 they have claimed two out of three domestic league titles, with a third surely on the way, but in Europe they have

Our advantage is 'dangerous' warns Ter Stegen

BARCELONA goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen believes their one-goal advantage over Manchester United is "not enough to defend" ahead of tonight's return leg of the Champions League quarter-final.

The La Liga champions came away from Old Trafford with a 1-0 win but Ter Stegen is wary of a side that have already upset the odds this season. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side fought back from 2-0 down to progress past Paris St Germain in the last round.

Ter Stegen said: "The good thing is that we play differently to PSG but they are really dangerous.

"They are very quick. You always have to be alert. They know how to play in a very calm way. They made things really hard for us (in the first leg).

"The result we got in Manchester is dangerous because it's a very small advantage, it's not enough to defend. We need to step forward and create risky situations. We have to keep the ball and create good chances and

That is the challenge Solskjaer is up against above all: a team who really have to win. He lamented his players allowing their focus to slip in the home leg, when he said they allowed Sergio Busquets too much space to pass to Messi to create the goal. "Belief is one thing and concentration another," he

It will have to be the perfect game, the kind of defeat for Barcelona that they have not suffered since 2013 and on an evening when there is much more at stake for the home side than the underdogs hoping to pull off a shock. (© Daily Telegraph, London)

Solskjaer tells his misfiring strikers it's time to deliver

James Ducker

OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER has told his misfiring Manchester United forwards to step up and show their worth against Barcelona after warning his side to forget all the talk about fate by writing their own Champions League history.

Twenty years after scoring the stoppage-time goal that clinched the European Cup for United against Bayern Munich at the Nou Camp, Solskjaer returns to the scene of one of the club's greatest triumphs in the hope of producing another.

United must overturn a 1-0 deficit in the second leg of their Champions League quarter-final against Barcelona tonight to progress to the last four for the first time since 2011 and set up a potential semi-final meeting with Liverpool.

They must score to stand any chance of achieving that and, having seen his team fail to register a shot on target in the first leg at Old Trafford last week and struggle for goals since their dramatic 3-1 comeback against Paris Saint-Germain at the Parc des Princes in the previous round, Solskjaer called on his strike force to deliver - and recognise fate will play no part.

"We need to score goals and if it's Rom (Romelu Lukaku), Jesse (Lingard), Anthony (Martial), Alexis (Sanchez), Marcus (Rashford), we need big performances," he said.

Expensive

"We have to defend well, but we have to have that little bit extra to score goals against teams like this. We weren't good enough against them [at Old Trafford]. That's the \$100 million question - who can score them? That's why the best strikers are the most expensive ones. We know we'll create chances, we have a goal threat, it's about taking those chances.

"I believe you get what you deserve in sport, that you put your life and effort and determination into things and get what you deserve. People have said to me it has to be our year - that it's 20 years ago [since I scored the winner], that I used to play with No 20, back at Camp Nou, but we have to deserve it. We can't just rely on fate."

The Norwegian may know what it takes to score at this stadium, but it remains to be seen if his players can. Lukaku has not scored since his brace against PSG, but could partner Rashford, who has managed just two goals since his decisive penalty against the French champions, in attack alongside either Lingard or Martial, both of whom have struggled for form and fitness and who have one goal between them in nine weeks.

Sanchez has also returned to United's squad after six weeks out with a knee injury and, although he is unlikely to start, Solskjaer insisted there was plenty for the Chile striker to prove against his former club. Sanchez left Barca for Arsenal in 2014, but his performances for United have been dire.

"Alexis has played here and when



Alexis Sanchez is back in the squad but not expected to start

he's on the pitch he wants to prove a point for us as well," said Solskjaer.

"He's been injured, not had a fantastic season so far so let's hope he can end the season great."

Although he travelled with the squad, Luke Shaw is suspended following his booking in the first game, so Ashley Young could deputise at left-back and Diogo Dalot start at right-back. Nemanja Matic is available after he missed the past two games through illness.

United have scored just four times from open play since their win over PSG, but Solskjaer will take heart from that comeback and the fact they have scored nine goals in four Champions League away matches.

"That memory from PSG will help, we know we can turn things round," he said. "Barca at the Nou Camp is a different prospect, but the memory from that night will live with the players. It's not long ago and we're one goal better off."

Despite insisting United must be better on the ball and would "suffer" if they allowed Barcelona 80 per cent possession, Solskjaer hinted at a physical approach and the need to maximise set-pieces.

"We can still be in this tie in the 93rd minute," he said. "We can get a set-piece, we are physically taller than them, but you have to use it better than last week. It's about the quality, but we need to score.

"I don't mind if it's the 93rd minute because if we get to injury time we are a fit team. But if we get the first goal it'll be so important."

Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said the thing he "most fears is the spirit" of Solskjaer's team.

"United has something special in the final minutes," Valverde said, while adding that past glories don't dictate future outcomes. "We all chose examples from our past that can give us a boost. That is experience. But at the end, I believe that you write your own destiny. It is not given to you."

And there is one bizarre statistic that will be giving United fans hope. Messi hasn't scored in his last 12 games at the quarter-final stage stretching back to 2013. (© Daily Telegraph, London) Barcelona v Manchester United, Live, RTÉ 2/BT Sport 2, 8.0

learns how to win as himself

at peace with himself and others. He'll crack jokes on the course, or chat genially with his playing partners. Or, as his former coach Sean Foley put it: "He realises the bold approach he had all those years was necessary. But now, it's not who he is any more."

In a way, Woods has swapped heaviness for lightness. A few weeks ago, at the Players Championship, his playing partner Kevin Na raised a smile by bending over to pick his ball out of the cup while it was still on its way to the hole.

A few seconds later, to riotous laughter, Woods did the same, and as the pair walked from the green in fits and giggles, we glimpsed an athlete who, at 43, had finally struck open a long-cloistered truth: that at its heart, golf is supposed to be fun.

"There was a time when he was so focused on winning he lost out on some of the relationships that go on out here," said tour colleague Brandt Snedeker. "He's embraced that the last five years, kind of opened up to a mentor role to the younger guys."

Those long years of injury and rehab, as painful as they were, achieved something far more important still: they helped him to reconnect, to fix a personal life shattered by the death of his father Earl and his marital infidelities.

"The most important thing is that I get to have a life with my kids," he admitted in a 2015 interview with 'Time'. "That's more important than golf. I've come to realise that now."

And so perhaps this triumph will mean more to him than most, because it was the first he won

by truly being himself. Or rather, the first he won as himself. Even the most devoted Tiger-watchers wondered aloud whether the snarl was the cornerstone of his success: whether the tamed new Tiger could ever match the brutal old for pure, ice-cold menace.

Well, here was their answer. A Masters champion again, the first people to greet him were his mother Kultida, his children Sam and Charlie, his new girlfriend Erica Herman. All around him, the galleries were on their feet, and like the millions watching on television you suspect they were united not simply in admiration for a great athlete, but in adoration for a changed man. Perhaps to conquer the world again, Tiger Woods first had to let it in. (© **Independent News Service)**



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JOSEPH O'BRIEN: 'You can't afford to give yourself a pat on the back' In The Stables - Page 39



Solskjaer's call for

Manchester

Ole Gunnar

Solskjaer has

called on his

they attempt

deficit against

to overhaul

a first-leg

Barcelona

"We know

we'll create chances, we have a goal threat,

it's about

boss.

P47

taking those chances," said the United

Full Story,

tonight.

strikers to

step up as

United

heroes:

United

manager

Van Graan open to legends' return

Coach in contact with O'Gara and O'Connell as he weighs up backroom changes

Rúaidhrí O'Connor

JOHANN VAN GRAAN has left the door open for a surprise Munster return for Ronan O'Gara and Paul O'Connell.

The South African, who last week penned a contract extension that will keep him at Thomond Park to 2022, is considering a coaching revamp. Current assistants Jerry Flannery and Felix Jones are out of contract at the end of the season and new deals for the pair have not been announced.

O'Gara is currently assistant coach at the Super Rugby champion Crusaders in New Zealand, while O'Connell is forwards coach at Parisian club Stade Français.

He will leave that post at the end of

Inside: Peter O'Mahony says Munster are 'different animal now' P42-43

the season and his future in coaching is in doubt, while O'Gara's future beyond the end of this season is unclear after he was heavily linked with a role with France.

"We've first got to sort out the guys that we currently have," Van Graan told Virgin Media Sport.

"We as a coaching group are working very well together and obviously I came in mid-season last season and we got through last season, did all of our planning, and I'm really enjoying it. Everyone else is really enjoying it. We're always open to adding some



additional personnel. We'll finish the year first and then make our decisions after.

"Nothing's ever impossible. Paulie is doing some great work with Stade Français and he's finishing up. ROG has been absolutely fantastic at Crusaders and he's possibly the most sought-after coach in the world, if I'm not mistaken.

"I've been in constant contact with them, but there's a lot of quality coaches all over the world and we'll do what's the best for Munster.

"Look, they're fantastic people and fantastic coaches. We're all on different journeys in our coaching paths, so I wouldn't say yes or no to that. We'll see what the future holds."

Munster will almost certainly be without Joey Carbery for their Champions Cup semi-final clash with Saracens in Coventry on Saturday with Tyler Bleyendaal expected to start.

Carbery will not be risked due to his hamstring issue, while Keith Earls and Jean Kleyn will have to prove their fitness ahead of the game.

GAELIC GAMES

Glynn return a huge lift for Galway

Michael Verney

MICHEÁL DONOGHUE has received a significant boost ahead of next month's Leinster SHC with the confirmation that towering attacker Johnny Glynn is set to rejoin the Galway fold in the coming weeks.

Glynn, who is based in New York, will continue his inter-county career against all the odds with the 25-year-old set to be on board when the Tribesmen meet Carlow in their provincial opener on May 12.

With former Hurler of the Year Joe Canning potentially sidelined

for most of the Championship and Conor Cooney also an absentee with an ankle injury, it's a major lift for Donoghue's squad.

The Ardrahan forward – who earned an All-Star nomination last year after some inspirational displays – didn't feature in club action in recent weeks but is set to return from the Big Apple as they look to avenge the All-Ireland final defeat to Limerick last August.

Joseph Cooney's future is less clear, however, and it's up in the air whether the Sarsfields attacker will return from his travels this year.

GOLF

New Nike deal can make Tiger richest athlete in history

Tom Morgan

TIGER WOODS'S Masters triumph will be rewarded with a new Nike deal worth in excess of €170 million, according to leading brand experts who claim he could start closing the gap again on Michael Jordan as the wealthiest sportsman in history.

The American's comeback from sex scandals, a drug arrest and back injuries comes just months before his deal with the sports kit giant is up for renewal. Shortly after Woods's triumph at Augusta, Nike shared a new advert, "Never stop chasing

your crazy dream", paying tribute to his feat, and marketing bosses claim the brand will be desperate to keep hold of the star.

Following a costly divorce, Forbes estimated Woods's net worth at \$740 million (€670m) in 2016. He has some way to go to catch up with Jordan, whose estimated fortune of \$1.4 billion (€1.2bn) continues to swell thanks to his named branding deal with Nike.

Russell Scibetti, of leading American sports sponsorship firm Kore said Woods could expect to secure a fresh deal worth in excess

of \$200m over six years. Ronn Torossian, chief executive of New York public relations firm 5WPR, estimated Woods's worth increasing by \$20m this year.

In addition, Hollywood filmmakers are expected to come in with offers to chronicle Woods's recovery from 1,199th in the world rankings, having been close to quitting as he was treated for sex addiction and arrested at the wheel of his car with a cocktail of drugs in his system.

"The Masters was huge for Nike and huge for Tiger," said Scibetti. (© Daily Telegraph, London)

FARMIRELAND Farmin Independent Tuesday 16 April 2019 www.independent.ie







Martin Coughlan P19

ANALYSIS

Savage dog attack on our lambs was one of the lowest days of my farming life **John Joyce** PAGE 11



Dairy-beef breeding plan 'too little too late'

Jersey and Kiwi genetics are now 'embedded' in the national dairy herd claims ICSA

MARGARET DONNELLY AND **DECLAN O'BRIEN**

PLANS to rejuvenate the beleaguered dairy-calf-to-beef sector have come under fire from livestock farmers.

reveal that a new programme to test ICBF's Dairy Beef Index (DBI). the suitability of various bull breeds to produce beef animals from the dairy herd is being put in place by Teagasc and Dawn Meats.

However, the ICSA has questioned why efforts are being made by the meat industry and state agencies to make dairy beef viable while ignoring suckler beef.

"All this talk of finding magical beef bulls to fix the poor conformation of Jersey and Kiwi cross cows is like trying to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear," said ICSA beef chair Edmund Graham.

The joint initiative by Teagasc and Dawn Meats — which is supported by ICBF and commercial beef finishers has identified 20 beef bulls from which up to 500 calves will be pur-

ers will then contract rear the calves to steer and heifer beef over the following two years.

The meat yield from the slaughtered animals will be measured and The Farming Independent can the bulls evaluated according to the

of moves by Glanbia and Kepak on dairy-beef breeding, following a very challenging spring for calf sales.

Poor beef farmer demand for dairy bulls saw prices halve for Friesian calves, while Jersey and Kiwi crosses were a particularly difficult trade. Many of these sold for as little as €5/

Padraig French of Teagasc said the aim of the new breeding initiative is to gauge if breeds that have not traditionally been bred to dairy cows are suitable for dairy beef.

While established breeds such as Angus, Hereford and Limousin are among the 20 sires chosen this year, Mr French said Aubrac, Parthenaise and other breeds will also be

chased next spring. Commercial farm- assessed. The Teagasc livestock specialist said that an Aubrac bull is the top sire listed on the DBI at the moment.

'Much of the data we have for the non-traditional breeds comes from the suckler herd," Mr French said.

The traits sought in the dairy-beef The initiative comes on the back bulls are short gestation lengths and suckler beef. low calving difficulty, to suit the dairy farmer, while at the same time retaining strong terminal traits that produce calves with good growth rates and conformation.

These calves are capable of maturing at higher weights and delivering high meat yields.

Suckler beef

However, the ICSA maintains that the breeding plan is "too little too late" since Jersey and Kiwi genetics were now embedded in the dairy herd.

"It is notable that the meat industry has made no commitment to devising a sustainable model for suckler beef," said Edmund Graham..

Protected Geographical Index (PGI) status from the EU for suckler beef has to be made a priority, said Mr Graham.

He added that this must be part of a bigger plan for branding suckler beef. "Unless we can target discerning niche markets, there is no future for

"Unfortunately, it appears that the meat industry is already writing off the suckler sector. They are trying to persuade farmers who got crucified with dairy bull beef this spring to take another gamble. We need firmer foundations if there is a future for the beef sector."

A spokesman for Dawn Meats said the preparatory work for the dairybeef breeding programme with Teagasc was still being put in place ahead of a 2020 launch date.

"Dawn Meats is working closely with Teagasc and ICBF on a number of farms in the production of beef from dairy calves to identify suitable bulls for inclusion in the Dairy Beef Sire Index," he stated.

Resumption of live trade to Egypt moves a step closer

EXCLUSIVE: CIARAN MORAN

EFFORTS to re-establish live cattle exports to Egypt have received a major boost with the Department of Agriculture agreeing three updated health certificates with Egyptian authorities.

The Department of Agriculture's Chief Veterinary Officer has written to his Egyptian counterpart with three proposed health certificates for the export of fattening, slaughter and breeding cattle with the aim of re-establishing live exports.

It has now confirmed that the updated health certs have been agreed.

At a meeting with Irish officials earlier this year, the Egyptian authorities indicated a willingness to consider amending existing health certificates and putting a new certificate for breeding stock in place.

Egypt has a potential capacity to import over 100,000 cattle per annum.

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ON THE FARM

BUSINESS



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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU SEND LETTERS TO: Farming Independent, Independent House, Talbot street, Dublin 1



diary dates

Today

Open day on Heavy Grassland Farmer of the Year Danny Bermingham's farm, Doonbeg, Co Clare at 11am.

Tomorrow

Spring Crop Walk on Gareth Culligan's farm, Strabannon, Co Louth at 11am.

Organic Demonstration farm walk on the farm of Donal Keane, Camelton Stud, Summerhill, Co Meath at 12pm.

Farm safety event at Coorevin Farm, Borrisokane, Co Tipperary at 12pm.

Thursday

Spring Crop walk Martin and Jamie Whelan's farm Ballingale Ballycarney, Co Wexford at 7pm.

Alpaca Association of Mullingar Equestrian Centre.

Wednesday April 24

Spring Crop Farm walk on the Department's Farm at Ballyderown, Co Cork at 11am.

To include your events phone 01-7055638 or email

Sunday

Ireland's Annual Fleece Show,

farming@independent.ie

CIARAN MORAN

THE LAW Reform Commission is set to complete its work on its review of Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) by early 2020.

The Commission's work began in 2015 and involves the consolidation, clarification and reform of the rules and principles on compulsory acquisition of land.

The current process is considered unnecessarily complex, lengthy

and costly.

The Commission has highlighted that the current law derives from many different pieces of legislation. It notes that different rules apply depending on the type of compulsory purchase order (CPO) involved, whether for electricity, railways, roads or other matters.

New CPO legislation promises fairer results for landowners

Valuation

Property valuation is among the issues examined in the Commission's Paper. The Commission has noted that, under current practices, a property might be valued some years before the date when the compensa-

This could result in a loss either to the State (if property prices fall in the meantime) or to the landowner (if property prices go up).

tion payment is actually made.

One option being considered would be 'an equivalence principle' that would ensure that valuation and payment happen at the same time.





EASTER CHICK

Victoria Zebollos (6) from Dunsany **National School** pictured at the launch of a new 'Farm **Experience' attraction** at Newbridge House and estate in Donabate, Co Dublin. PHOTO: PAUL SHERWOOD

Farmers demand answers on March milk price cuts

Anger as Glanbia and Lakeland Dairies cut prices despite rise in Ornua price index

MARGARET DONNELLY

FARMING organisations have reacted angrily to the cut in March milk prices by both Glanbia and Lakeland Dairies last Friday.

Glanbia said it was paying 30.5c/L (VAT inc), down 1c/L, while Lakeland Dairies announced a price of 31.56c/L (VAT and lactose bonus included) for March supplies.

ICMSA's dairy committee chairperson, Ger Quain, said that farmers were entitled to be cynical about milk price given the decision of two of producers up 12-13pc in the the country's biggest milk first quarter compared to the processors to cut their milk first quarter of 2018. price.

"It is an extraordinary situation where the Ornua PPI can rise month after month with either no corresponding rise in farmer milk price or price rises that are wholly insufficient or proportionate to the rise in the index. We then see a marginal fall in the index that is largely explicable by factors outside dairy markets — Brexit, for instance — and

literally that week farmers see their milk price cut," said Mr Quain.

"The plain fact is that Irish co-ops have been lagging near the bottom of the European price per litre table for a very considerable time; that are already underpaying on any kind of 'like-forlike' comparison with their European counterparts."

The move by two of the country's largest processors comes as milk production is on target to top 8bn litres this vear, with deliveries to some

Glanbia said its March price is "in line with current market returns".

Glanbia chairman Martin Keane said: "Glanbia Ireland has maintained its base price of 30c/L to reflect current market returns.

"While global milk supply growth is lower than previous years and oil prices have increased, market demand in some regions is

being adversely affected by challenges that include lower economic growth, Brexit and trade wars.

IFA's dairy chairman Tom Phelan said the decision by the two to cut their respective milk price was a big blow for farmers. IFA had lobbied coops intensively over the past two weeks, outlining in detail the 10 reasons why they should hold their price. "The decision by both co-ops is unwarranted. Cashflow on dairy farms is critical at this time of the year.

"When you consider that Ornua will be paying a €19m



THIS DECISION IS **UNWARRANTED: CASH FLOW IS CRITICAL AT THIS** TIME OF THE YEAR year-end operating bonus to member co-ops, up 27pc on last year, you'd have to sav the decision by Glanbia, in particular, is completely

unjustified," said Mr Phelan. Kerry Group's March milk is unchanged at 31c/L (vat inclusive). It said based on average March milk solids. the price return inclusive of vat and bonuses is 33.34c/L.

A spokesperson for Kerry said the base price and bonus levels are unchanged but, as always at this time of each vear, the level of solids reduces with the significant increase in milk volumes as cows approach peak production.

confirmed Dairygold yesterday that its base price for March milk supplies is unchanged at 31.19c/L, based on standard constituents of 3.3pc protein and 3.6pc butterfat, inclusive of VAT and bonuses.

This equates to a farm gate milk price of 33.78c/L based on average March milk solids for all Dairygold milk suppliers, said a Dairygold spokesperson.





Hogan urges farmers to 'put shoulders to the wheel' on environment

CIARAN MORAN

THERE IS an urgent need for farmers to do more for the environment, EU Agri Commissioner Phil Hogan has warned.

"Everybody has to put their shoulder to the wheel" he said yesterday at a meeting on the Commission's environment proposals for the post-2020 CAP reform package.

"There will be no exceptions. The need for aiming higher has never been more urgent.

"Farmers work in all weather all year round. They can see with their own eyes what is happening."

Water quality

The Commission's proposals include the mandatory provision of eco-schemes, as part of the Pillar I direct payments and linking payments to requirements on water quality and nutrient management plans.

It is also proposed that 30pc of the Rural Development Programme expenditure, excluding payments for areas of natural constraints, must be focused on biodiversity/ environment/climate-related measures.

"Biodiversity in regions of intensive agriculture is disappearing at an alarming rate," said Commissioner Hogan, adding that nitrates are the main pollutant affecting 18pc of the groundwater courses of the EU.

SPRING DELIVERY



Michael Conroy from Headford, Co Galway loads up a pen of spring lamb at Loughrea Mart. Sheep quotes this week are back by 10-15c/kg. Read more: Ringside, page 17 PHOTO BRIAN FARRELL

Advisors and vets getting over 40pc of Knowledge Transfer scheme funding

DECLAN O'BRIEN

MORE than 40pc of the total expenditure on the Knowledge Transfer (KT) programme for 2018 went to agricultural consultants and vets.

Department of Agriculture figures released to the Farming Independent show that the total expenditure on the scheme last year was €21.66m, with €12.4m paid to farmers and €9.26m paid to farm consultants and vets.

A breakdown of these figures confirms that farmers received 57pc of the total expenditure on the scheme in 2018, while farm consultants and vets received 43pc. Farmers received a larger

share of the total expenditure on the KT scheme in 2017. Payments to farmers totalled $\[mathebox{\ensuremath{\mathfrak{C}}10.1m}$, with $\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\mathfrak{C}}3.7m}$ going to farm consultants and vets.

This equates to a share-out of 73pc to farmers and 27pc to consultants and vets.

The KT scheme, which is funded under the Rural Development Programme, was launched in 2016 with a view to up-skilling farmers by encouraging efficiency and effectiveness of work. Agri-consultants act as facilitators for the scheme by organising KT Groups.

Participants, in conjunction with their KT facilitator, are required under the scheme to draw up a farm

improvement plan and attend two qualifying KT events each year.

In addition, farmers must complete an animal health measure on their holding which is overseen by their vet.

It was originally envisaged that up to 27,000 farmers would join the KT programme but it has struggled to attract more than 20,000 participants since being launched.

Meanwhile, the Department figures show that payments to farm consultants under the GLAS scheme in 2018 totalled €3.6m. Payments to consultants under the BDGP came to €3.34m in 2016 and €1.44m in 2017.

Beef Plan group hits out at 'toothless' farm organisations as it launches farmer survey

THE BEEF Plan Movement has taken aim at farm organisations slamming them as 'toothless and institutionalised'.

In a direct attack on established farm organisations, the group claim "the reality whether we like to admit it or not is that our farm unions have become badly supported toothless organisations who have become institutionalised".

Established farm unions have "failed farmers to such an extent that now our very survival is threatened," claimed the Beef Plan statement.

"The people representing us are not consulting with us farmers on the ground the way they should. They don't seem to understand what we want."

Beef grid

The Beef Plan Movement is currently carrying out a survey of its members. It has asked farmers if they believe the beef grid returns a fair price to them, and if it's over complicated and needs reform.

It also questions farmers on whether they think the 30-month age limit for steers and heifers to quality of QPS needs to be extended upwards.

Farmers are asked if they think factory feedlots are used to negatively manipulate base prices and if there is competition between factories for cattle or if they think there is a cartel in operation in the beef sector.

The 10-point survey also ask farmers if they think all grades should qualify for a QA bonus if the farm is Bord Bia quality assured.

Farm Assist paperwork an 'ordeal' for farmers claim FF

A REVIEW of Farm Assist Scheme forms to ease and speed up applications is being sought by Fianna Fáil's agriculture spokesperson, Charlie McConalogue.

He has called on the Minister for Social Protection, Regina Doherty, to review the forms so that farmers are not slowed down by "red tape" when applying for the payment.

"My constituency office, and my colleagues in Fianna Fáil, are regularly meeting with members in the farming community who have been thrown by the farm assist payment forms," Deputy McConalogue said.

"These convoluted forms, with all the requirements within, are a yearly ordeal for farmers."





Farmers divided over plans to publicly identify 'high risk' herds

MARTIN RYAN

A PROPOSAL to identify the herd health status of livestock being offered for public sale has divided farmers.

The Department of Agriculture proposal to identify livestock categorised as 'high risk' for TB infection was slammed as 'stigmatising' herds and devaluing the stock at a series of Department and IFA regional information meetings in November.

Tom Kennedy (Pallasgreen) told last week's meeting of Limerick IFA that it is not acceptable that livestock from a particular area can be "devalued" on the market because there is a bad breakdown in one herd.

"Disclosing the health status of a herd should not be accepted by the IFA," he said.

A senior IFA officer disagreed and argued that if a herd has been wiped out with TB and the farmer is restocking, he is

entitled to know that he is not buying back from a high-risk area.

ICMSA deputy president Lorcan McCabe said his group has no problem with a number of the Department proposals,

"But we are particularly concerned by the balance that needs to be struck between fair disclosure of herd status and the reality that you could see individuals 'double-penalised' in that they had to get past an

incidence of infection and then were hampered in trading of their animals, despite testing clear," he said. "We think the Department's proposals put a disproportionate weight on animal movements when the data tells us that 7.4pc of TB outbreaks are due to animal movements and they are, typically, only very short episodes.

"This question of disclosing the health history of a herd needs more attention and

than the Department seemed inclined to give it.

"The contrast between the Department's determination in this area and their somewhat weaker commitment to looking at the wildlife aspect specifically badgers and deer - is notable."

A sharp increase in the incidence of TB in Co Monaghan over the last 24 months has resulted in a number of the herds in the county being depopulated.

Monaghan IFA chairman Frank Brady said the experience has been devastating for the families involved.

"For a county that has gone from being one of lowest (for TB infection) to the worst in two years there has to be a reason and we have to get serious about the source of the infection.

"Farmers' livelihoods are at stake and the cause has to be tackled."



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REPRESENTATION of non-farmers and farmers will make Macra stronger, president-elect Thomas Duffy told the Farming Independent at the Macra na Feirme elections last week.

"We are relevant for non-farmers as well as farmers. We're very open to bring in everyone.

"It doesn't limit us as a lobby group," said the Cavan dairy farmer and agricultural advisor. "We are keen to

Mr Duffy (above, right) will be officially elected the new president at the

organisation's national AGM on Saturday, May 11.

He is pictured along with new vice presidents Fergus O'Rourke, Ger Mahon and Sean Wallace (left to right).

PHOTO: GERRY MOONEY

Farmers facing reduced compo for ESB cables

TIM HEALY

FARMERS may face reduced compensation being paid by the ESB for access to land if the ESB wins a test case it has taken.

The ESB wants the Commercial Court to rule on a €640,500 claim for access to land.

The ESB is facing compensation claims for some €3.5m from property owners whose land is needed to run power cables for the national infrastructure.

Already, some €1.9m has already been paid in up-front payments to landowners affected by the 24km Kinnegad

to Mullingar line, it says.

One landowner along that line, who has already accepted a €66,000 payment for "flexibility of access" to his property, has put in a claim for nearly 10 times that amount, the ESB says.

Arbitrator

Now the ESB has sought the Commercial Court to rule on whether the €66,000 payment can be taken into account by an arbitrator who has been appointed to decide Kenneth Payne's €640,500 claim for access to his land in Co Meath.

ESB landowner engagement manager Colm Smyth says in

an affidavit that the cost of this compensation "directly impacts on the cost of electricity". He says the ESB is experiencing "a substantial growth" in such claims and for requests that they be sent for arbitration.

In the Payne case, the ESB asked arbitrator Desmond Boyle, who was appointed to deal with the claim, to state a case to the High Court on whether the €66,000 should be taken into account in assessing compensations.

Mr Boyle decided it was inappropriate for him to do so.

The ESB then brought its own case to the High Court seeking the matter be adjudicated on in order to bring clarity to the situation.

Mr Justice Robert Haughton admitted the case to the fast-track Commercial Court after he said it was effectively a test case on an important, but discreet, point.

The judge was also told that Mr Boyle was not taking part in the proceedings as his position was akin to that of a District Judge who would also not be party to such cases.

Mr Justice Haughton said he would welcome the arbitrator reconsidering his position as otherwise there would be no proper opponent in the case.

The matter has been adjourned to June.



BY GEORGE



Padraig McGrath, Cloonshannagh, Elphin, Co Roscommon with his prizewinning bull Kyle George at the Irish Hereford Society Show and Sale at Nenagh Mart last weekend. Full report: pedigree, pages 20-21

I don't know where the green diesel came from', pleads farmer

Sympathy but €2,500 fine for farmer found guilty of having marked diesel in van

A JUDGE and state solicitor both said they felt sympathy for a Co Limerick farmer found guilty of having green diesel in his van.

Anthony Bradshaw, of Rahard, Pallasgreen pleaded not guilty to the offence in Kilmallock Court. He was fined

The farmer, who represented himself, said he doesn't know where the marked diesel came from. He said he had filled up his tank with 42L of diesel in Kerry Agribusiness, Herbertstown on February 21. Mr Bradshaw said he always goes there as he has an account.

Customs and excise officers gave evidence of taking a sample from his vehicle's fuel tank at a routine checkpoint in Oola on February 24, 2018. It was positive for agricultural diesel.

After speaking with Mr Bradshaw, they then tested Kerry Agribusiness' tank in Herbertstown on February 26, 2018.

Linda Ryan, customs and excise officer, said the store had received a delivery of diesel on February 7. This was the same diesel that Mr Bradshaw filled his tank with.

After testing the diesel in Kerry Agribusiness, Herbertstown, state solicitor Aidan Judge asked Ms Ryan what conclusions did she form?

"It was perfectly fine, proper, normal diesel," said Ms Ryan. The defendant was asked if anyone else has access to the van. "No, but I don't lock the vehicle," said Mr Bradshaw.

The farmer took the stand in Kilmallock Court and passed a large number of documents to Judge Marian O'Leary. It detailed all his diesel transactions with Kerry Agribusiness in Herbertstown.

Answering questions from Mr Judge about how there came to be a positive test for green diesel in his van, Mr Bradshaw said he couldn't explain it.

Documentation

"I get my fuel in Herbertstown all the time. I have the documentation for it. I didn't put green diesel in my van," said Mr Bradshaw.

"Are you disputing it?" asked Mr Judge. "If the customs and excise say there was green diesel in my van then there was green diesel in my van but I get my diesel in Herbertstown," said Mr Bradshaw.

Judge O'Leary said the State has proven its case. "I do find you guilty of having marked diesel in your van," said Judge O'Leary.

The judge said he had no problem with full mitigation from €5,000 to the minimum of €2,500. Judge O'Leary said she also had sympathy for him. "It is possibly a very generous mistake. My hands are tied. The minimum I can fine you is €2,500," said Judge O'Leary.

Recognisance was fixed in the event of an appeal.

New guidelines highlight pitfalls of rapid dairy expansion

CIARAN MORAN

WELFARE guidelines for dairy herds have been updated, following concerns raised by vets.

The guidelines address issues including feed, housing and labour.

The publication, produced by the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council (FAWAC) follows concerns expressed by Veterinary Ireland on dairy cow wel-

fare, particularly regarding lack of investment in calf housing and labour issues.

Veterinarians from UCD had identified areas of concern regarding nutrition, farm labour and housing. Concern was also raised in some cases about the lack of suitable housing due to excessive herd expansion.

The booklet says the recent changes in the dairy industry also emphasise the need for more aware-

ness of farm workers' physical and mental health.

Compact calving

It highlights that features of modern Irish dairying, including larger herd sizes, challenges in acquiring skilled labour as well as volatility in milk pricing, are creating new pressures for both farm owners and their staff.

Practices such as compact calving and constraints on

investment in infrastructure and handling facilities, as well as unpredictable weather are also pushing some farmers to their limits.

The guidelines recommend that dairy expansion plans must start with consideration of the farmer's ability to cope with extra demands and the ability of the enterprise to employ and source trained and capable staff.

www.ifa.ie/Euro2019



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YOUR ASSOCIATION. YOUR VOICE.



Tidier isn't always better — we also need to protect our biodiversity

OPINION

ANN **FITZGERALD**



THANKS very much to a gardener named Paul who sent me a very engaging letter last week, asking me to issue a reminder of a timely matter.

Before I get to the letter, I want to remark on how beautiful our countryside looks at the moment, with everything bursting into life.

Shiny new calves basking in the fields, nest-building birds in full voice, and the unfurling new leaves on the trees are beacons of hope in these uncertain times.

In our towns and villages, too, there are signs of Tidy Towns committees being busy, with the disappearance of litter, the appearance of freshly painted flower pots and general sprucing-up.

This is where Paul's letter

"Three years ago while driving the back road into a local town, the verge caught my attention," he writes.

"It was full of wildflowers and buzzing with pollinators, heavenly sight. I was going to photograph it and record the species of wildflowers in it, to try to replicate it.

"I did return a few days later, Jesus wept and so did I. As a Cavan man born and bred, I don't often succumb to such emotion.

"Ann, they tidied it all up, all those unsightly weeds. It looked like a silverback that had his arse shaved by a blind man."

I couldn't help laughing at Paul's words but he's describing an issue which also incenses me: sometimes, as soon as things are flourishing, they are knocked on the head, with a quick visit from a lawnmower, strimmer or shot of weed killer.

As Paul puts it so well: "A monoculture desert looks tidy but it is dead. Those weeds that they are tidying up are full of life, colour and energy."

So, in a direct call to Tidy Town groups, local authorities and those managing public — or indeed private — green areas, please consider before you cut or spray: what is it achieving, is there an alternative?

Though I also want to point out that this is now happening less, obviously due the Tidy Towns Competition, which I'd like to commend for its leadership on environment care.

The Tidy Towns special awards include the Local Authority Pollinator Award, with a prize-fund of €9,000, aimed at encouraging Tidy

Towns groups to implement pollinator-friendly actions.

The aim of the award is to reverse the drop in our numbers of bees, which are crucial for plant pollination, by encouraging Tidy Towns groups to take on various measures.

These include leaving wildflowers to grow alongside roadsides, reducing the use of pesticides and using more pollinator-friendly planting in parks and gardens.

What's interesting is that there is a particular emphasis on a 'whole town' approach, as this is better for pollinating insects and will have greater long-term impacts for biodiversity.

It is also worth watching a short video on TidyTowns.ie featuring the Tidy Towns group in Geashill, Co Offaly, regional winner of a pollinator award last year.

Pat Foley, vice-chairman of the local group, says that there was a, "bit of bemusement" in 2015 when they first left the green margins unmown (except for a strip alongside the road for walking), the fear being that it would be "unsightly and lose us marks".

But that attitude quickly changed and, now, "everything we do is through the prism of biodiversity and pollinators".

The shift in emphasis suggests that window boxes and their mainly brightlycoloured annuals may be on their way out in the Tidy Towns.

Not only are they unattractive to wildlife, but they also require a lot of water, which as last summer showed, is an increasingly precious resource.

IT LOOKED LIKE **A SILVERBACK** THAT HAD HIS **ARSE SHAVED BY A BLIND MAN**

UCKED away and almost hidden behind the walls of the Phoenix Park, under the watchful gaze of Farmleigh Clock Tower, the Guinness dairy herd at Knockmaroon is believed to be the last within the M50.

However, the 90-strong Holstein Friesian herd's days chewing the cud in Castleknock are numbered. Kieran Guinness and the Knockmaroon farm management team have decided to sell off the herd and focus instead on maintaining and building up their mixed drystock enterprise.

With 21 hectares under use, dairy manager Peter Taaffe says the farm — which milks 50 cows in the winter and 40 in the spring — is already "maxed out". Expansion isn't a viable option on a site that is already under pressure from ever-increasing urban sprawl.

"We looked at different things here along with the family and you've nine blocks of land here," says Peter, who is from a beef farming and tillage background in Curraha in Co Meath but has been working and living at Knockmaroon since he was made manager in 1994.

"Every day we are on the road with a tractor and trailer. This is Castleknock. It's a very busy area and only 500 yards from the Phoenix Park. Trying to get the milk lorry up here can be a nightmare in the mornings because the road is like a car park with all the traffic.

"We have two hectares across the road and have to move the cows. It takes four of us to move the cows often there would be no cars on the road but the minute we decide to move them the place would be full of them."

While Peter was happy with the milk price received from Glanbia last year, he admits that the farm's liquid milk quota "isn't strong enough" and that switching to total spring production didn't make sense for the type of cow and farm facilities they have.

"Our liquid quota of 450 litres a day is not good enough," explains Peter, who works alongside fellow dairy manager Barry Clarke from Dunshaughlin. "There would be about €100,000 to spend on the vard between tanks and other things, and the way the milk is in the winter time here, going forward to invest that type of money wouldn't make sense.

"We're better off getting out of it now because the dairy industry is a vulnerable one to be in.

"We were lucky we got our bull calves sold in January for €130/hd but trade went down then so we decided to rear the rest ourselves, so hopefully that will work out."

Peter lives on a cottage on the farm with his wife Ann and two children - Cathal, who is studying agricultural science in UCD, and Orla, who is in fifth year at Castleknock Community College.

He says the farm has given them a great life and insists that it's not the end of an era as he will continue to drive on

Guinness clan call time on dairying



The Guinness family have operated a dairy farm close to Dublin city since the 1900s, but are now selling up the herd and switching to beef, reports Claire Fox

the farm's drystock herd.

"We have about 150 cattle made up of some Angus, Whiteheads and Friesians," he says. "We'll keep what we have and expand a bit, we won't overstock either. We want to keep it to a small number and we'll talk to Teagasc as they might have different plans that we can look into."

Knockmaroon Farm has been in operation since the 1800s. when it was purchased by the Guinness family. It kept a herd of Ayrshire cows but when BSE struck in 2001 and depopulated the herd, they fully switched over to Holsteins.

"We started from scratch and bought cows six months again on the last couple of years. There are great opportunities there to expand for some farms, but we did all we could

Peter says the addition of Barry to the farming team for the last 10 years has been a great help and would "recommend any lad farming on his own" to take on a young member of staff to motivate them.

"We're very lucky to have Barry," he says. "He has driven me on a bit more. He is only in his mid-20s and is on Twitter and sees modern things and brings modern ideas because going.Sometimes we lock horns but it works well and

makes sure we don't stay stuck in a rut."

With a heavily stocked and stringent paddock rotation system moving every 12 hours and few options for reseeding, Peter acknowledges that last summer's drought "really tested" the farm.

"It was like getting out of a plane in Lanzarote here, we were burned up from June to the end of September," he says.

"We had no grass and we used winter forage the whole way through. It was tough, although it was enjoyable to get up in the morning with the sun shining instead of working in the rain all the time.

"It was better than the rain after that," says Peter. "We got but it was tough going feeding up to 60 cows and pushed it cows and trying to keep mastitis under control but we got

> Last year the cows produced 6,040kg of milk solids and will



go up for auction next month along with about 40 young stock including calves and in calf heifers.

"The morning we took the cows' pictures here for the auction — we were proud as punch of them because they looked really well, with big veiny udders. We were thrilled," says Peter.

"We have a few bangers that have always been hanging around that we will keep and dry off and probably kill them off later in the year. We'll give it a shot and see how it goes."

While the farm was profitable enough for two employees to make a wage, Peter says he is excited about the new era that the long-standing farm will enter in the coming weeks. He feel it's important that farmers know the right time to bow out.

"I'll be 60 in 10 years and this farm isn't like any other farm out there," he says.

"You have to look at the big picture. It's nice to make the decision. We're hoping the drystock might suit us better.

"We know there's a lot getting out of cattle but maybe that makes it the right time for us to go in to it."

The Knockmaroon dairy herd will go up for auction at Carnaross Mart, Kells, Co Meath on Saturday, May 4. More information: Taaffe Auctions on 041 9881288.





'Getting a milk lorry into the yard was a nightmare'

IT was the right time to call it a day on dairying nightmare," he says. on Knockmaroon, insists the farm's owner Kieran Guinness.

The estate has been in the Guinness family since the 1800s, with his grandfather Walter Edward Guinness — a great-great grandson of Arthur Guinness, who established the brewery — acquiring the estate in Castleknock in the early 20th century. But with the swelling city suburbs making the prospect of expansion on Knockmaroon's dairy herd next to impossible, Kieran (pictured) says it makes sense for them to now offload the cows.

"There's nobody milking in Dublin any more. Getting a milk lorry in to the yard was a

"It's great that the drystock will keep the place going, but it's very difficult there at rush hour and the city isn't part of farming any

Kieran Guinness is the third generation of the family to tend to the farm in Knockmaroon. He has fond memories of life on the farm with his 10 siblings and of his father Bryan milking cows by hand.

"I remember my father milking cows in the late '50s. We kept Ayrshires back then. We always had a real interest in the farm," says Kieran, who also runs a successful stud farm and rears a mixed breed herd of cattle in Moyvore, Co Westmeath.





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Joined up thinkingon fungicides

Correct fungicide selection and application is a key part of an IPM (Integrated Pest Management) strategy, writes Ciaran Collins

A TYPICAL spring barley grower in Ireland will spend €90/ha on fungicides. This increases to €135/ha for a winter barley grower and further increases to €190/ ha for winter wheat.

Can two farmers spend the same amount of money on a fungicide programme and get different results? The answer is YES. From the Teagasc e-PM the top one third of winter wheat growers produced 0.6t/ha more yield yet spent €15/ha less on fungicides.

All professional users (farmers) are required to apply the general principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) under the Sustainable Use Directive (SUD). Many of these

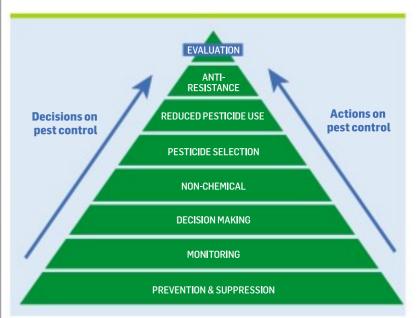
to record them.

Prevention and suppression is the biggest and most important part of the IPM triangle where crop rotation and varietal disease resistance scores are important factors. But in April, May and June the focus turns towards fungicides and how we use them.

How fungicides are used is a key part of any IPM strategy.

This involves the decision making process as to whether a fungicide is required or not, fungicide selection, rate and most importantly the timing that it is used on the crop.

The employment of an anti-resistance strategy is vital to prolong our existing measures are already prac-fungicides and all of this is ticed on farm and all that is underpinned by evaluation required of many farmers is and recording of results.



KEY IPM MEASURES

- ■Use of fungicides that are as specific as possible for the target disease,
- ■Use of fungicides to the necessary levels,
- ■Using a diversity of fungicides,
- ■Use of anti-resistance strategies to maintain the effectiveness of products,
- Recording of the success of the applied fungicides.





TABLE 1: WINTER BARLEY FUNGICIDE PROGRAMME PROGRAMME **TARGET DISEASES** TIMING **Tillering** Rhyncho Mixtures GS 25-30 Net Blotch Azole/Strob (normally only in high **Brown Rust** Mildewicide where required. disease pressure) Mildew **Stem extension** Rhyncho Mixtures GS 31-33 Net Blotch Azole/Strob/SDHI Mildew Mildewicide where required. Brown rust Ramularia Chlorothalonil 1.0 L (if Ramularia present in crop) Flag leaf/booting Chlorothalonil 1.0 L (All mixes) Rhyncho GS 39-49 Net Blotch Azole/Strob/SDHI Brown rust Ramularia Mildewicide where required

TIMING	TARGET DISEASES	PRODUCT OPTIONS (RATE/HA)
Leaf 4	Septoria (+/- Rust, Mildew)	Chlorothalonil (+/- Strob or morpholine)
Leaf 3	Septoria Eyespot Rust	Chlorothalonil 1.0 L + Azole + SDHI
Leaf 1	Septoria Rust	Chlorothalonil 1.0 L + Azole + SDHI
Flowering	Septoria Fusarium	Azole mix +/- Chlorothalonil

TABLE 3: SPRING BARLEY FUNGICIDE PROGRAMME TIMING TARGET DISEASES TARGET DISEASES TO THE PROGRAMME

Rust

TARGET DISEASES	PRUGRAMME
Rhyncho	Mixtures
Net Blotch	Azole/Strob/SDHI
Brown Rust	Mildewicide where
Mildew	required
Rhyncho	Chlorothalonil 1.0 L
Net Blotch	(All mixes) +
Brown rust	Azole/Strob/SDHI
Ramularia	Mildewicide where
Rust	required
	Net Blotch Brown Rust Mildew Rhyncho Net Blotch Brown rust

Timing is everything

n an era when the efficacy of our current suite of active ingredients is struggling to control septoria in wheat, an incorrect timing can be very costly.

The optimum time to apply a fungicide to control septoria on winter wheat is on a fully emerged leaf 3 and leaf 1 (flag leaf).

A late application results in disease gaining a hold on the unprotected leaf surface, and if applied too early the base of the leaf won't have emerged fully, so you'll be leaving this part of it unsprayed.

COMPONENTS OF YIELD

To understand why timings differ between wheat and barley it is important to look at the components of yield for each crop and how these differences influence the optimum timing of fungicide application.

In wheat, grain number/m and grain size have equal influence on yield.

Ear number has the biggest influence on grain number but the crop can compensate for low ear numbers by increasing grain number per ear and increasing grain size.

The focus on disease control in wheat is protecting the green leaf area at the top of the plant as the top three leaves account for over 70pc of yield in wheat.

Barley yield is closely related to grain number/m. The main factor influencing grain number is the number of ears/m.

Barley cannot compensate for lower ear numbers like wheat so the focus of disease control in barley is earlier to ensure tiller survival to maximise ear number.

TIMINGS: WINTER WHEAT

It is well established from research that leaf 1 (the flag lead or the upper most leaf when the crop is headed out) will make the largest contribution to yield followed by leaf 2 and then leaf 3.

The critical fungicide timings are a fully emerged leaf 3 where the upper proportion of leaf 2 is covered and a fully emerged leaf 1 where the lower proportion of leaf 2 is treated.

It is also well established that deviations from these timings can be costly especially in high disease pressure situations.

The only way to identify the correct leaf is to dissect the plant by unrolling the inner leaves to ensure that the fungicide is applied at the correct timing.

Pick the most advanced shoot (the main stem) from a plant and strip the leaves off by rolling the leaves away from the stem.

Once you've figured out the direction of roll for the first leaf, then the next leaf rolls out in the opposite direction. Continue to roll away the leaves carefully until you see the developing head.

When dissecting plants in early April you may need a magnifying glass to see leaf 1 which is hooked around the ear.

In 2019 it looks like the leaf 3 is not out any earlier than normal despite the mild winter.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10





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Spring cereal timings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

WINTER BARLEY

Winter barley trials were carried out from 2010-2013, in Carlow and Cork, examined five spray timings in all possible combinations. The study showed that the key timings to get a response from fungicides were at mid-late tillering (GS<GS30). stem extension (GS31/32) and awn emergence (GS39/49). If the final application was delayed until full ear emergence (GS59) there was a yield penalty. This highlights the need to protect the awns as they emerge.

SPRING BARLEY

Recent Teagasc research on spring barley reiterates the importance of timings. Applying fungicides at mid-late tillering and GS 39/45 increased yield by 0.5t/ha over traditional GS31/32 and GS 59 application timings.







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The loss of 'Bravo' will present big challenges for cereal growers, writes Ciaran Collins

THE European Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF) has voted against renewal of approval of the fungicide Chlorothalonil.

No dates are confirmed but it will be available for this season. Chlorothalonil (often referred to as Bravo) is a key active ingredient for the control of ramularia in barley and it is an important part of an anti-resistance strategy in wheat.

Teagasc produced a report last autumn on the possible implications of the loss of chlorothalonil. One of the key points was that where chlorothalonil is not available the report estimates the most likely scenario for e-Profit Monitor farmers is an average Net Margin reduction of over 50pc in wheat and 65pc in barley.

The report also states that in the medium term the introduction of new fungicides will be welcome and will increase disease control options. However, in the absence of chlorothalonil, a more rapid loss of efficacy of these fungicides is expected due to high disease pressure.

Ramularia

Ramularia has appeared in winter barley crops earlier than expected this season and it is may also be considered at an vital that chlorothalonil is used earlier timing if symptoms are in the programme as other present in the crop. It is vitally fungicides cannot be relied on important that chlorothalonil for control.

Typical symptoms of ramularia are small brown rectangular lesions surrounded by a yellow

One of the distinguishing features of ramularia is that it can be seen through the leaf. Sometimes symptoms can be seen on lower dead leaves but

normally symptoms appear post flowering.

Crop stress caused by drought, water logging or flowering are potential triggers. It has the potential to cause significant reductions in yield.

While differences do appear between varieties in terms of their ability to resist the disease in high pressure environments often experienced in Irish crops, these differences will be small and as such it is advised that fungicides are applied for its control.

In recent years there have been reports of SDHI and azole fungicide resistance occurring in European Ramularia populations. To date limited information is available on the Irish population, but given the biology of the pathogen it must be assumed that resistance is present in the Irish population.

As such both the SDHIs and azole fungicides should not be relied on for the control of ramularia.

Resistance in ramularia to the strobilurins is now widespread.

Chlorothalonil still remains very effective in the control of ramularia and it is strongly advised that it is applied at the final fungicide timing. It is applied prior to the development of the symptoms and there may be a requirement to use it earlier in the winter barley programme than the traditional final timing.

Ciaran Collins is a Teagasc crop specialist based in Moorepark, Co Cork

WHICH PRODUCT SHOULD I USE?

THERE is a huge range of fungicides to choose from in the market and the availability of generic products also increases the choice available to the farmer.

However, with such a large range of products to choose from it can be difficult to know if you are using the correct product. In order to get a handle on fungicides an understanding of the underlying active ingredient in products is fundamental.

Active ingredients can be classified into general categories as to how they work on the fungus. Selecting a fungicide primarily on these classifications can be very useful to ensure there is sufficient cover to control the disease. Combining this with applying at the recommended timings will ensure effective control and value for money.

Your agronomist or Teagasc advisor will be able to guide you through the fine detail of the recommended list of fungicides for 2019.





The day our farm became a killing zone





This was a batch of 40 ewes with twin lambs about a month old on good grass, so there was no need for them to be upset. As I cut the plastic off the next bale of silage I also heard the suckler cows in the adjacent field roaring as well.

I then knew there was some-

farmhouse for the shotgun and a handful of cartridges.

As I jogged across the first field I assumed it was just a neighbour's little house dog and that a shot into the air would put him on his way.

But as the noises coming from the field became louder, I quickly realised this was a bigger problem and the jog became a sprint.

As I got to the entrance gate of the field I couldn't believe my eyes.

Four dogs were leaving at the other side. Lambs' bodies lay dotted around the field. Some were dead, others badly damaged with bite marks and there were even lambs lying down with stress or exhaustion.

These were good strong lambs of four to five weeks and on examination they suffered a ferocious death.

None of the ewes were hurt just stressed. I have had many a bad day in my farming career

but this could be ranked as one of the lowest.

I believe the suckler cows saved the day. Their roars trying to protect their calves may have eventually frightened the dogs.

As bad as the attack was, I



COWS MAY HAVE SAVED THE DAY WITH THEIR **PROTECT THEIR**

would imagine it only lasted 10 to 15 minutes, I would hate to think the consequence if the dogs were there for an hour

Readers may ask what's this got to do with beef farming? I believe the four large dogs I witnessed leaving the field that morning would be highly capable of chasing a batch of suckled yearlings not long out of a shed or a group of bucket-reared dairy calves.

As farmers we are heavily regulated from environmental issues to animal welfare and everything in between.

Yet it would apply that other people living in rural Ireland don't seem to be too encumbered by regulations.

To make the case worse the dogs appeared to have headed home in two pairs in two different directions so this would suggest there are two different owners.

'These were good, strong lambs of four to five weeks old and they suffered a

ferocious deat

Over the past few months there has been a media campaign to alert dog owners on the dangers and damage their dogs pose to livestock, but it seems to have fallen on deaf ears as there appears to be daily attacks on sheep throughout the country during this past winter and spring.

The big problem here is that when the dogs who attack sheep aren't shot, there is a big danger they will be back for another attack.

For now I am patrolling the boundary of the farm early in the morning and late at night and mixed a few suckler cows with young calves in with each batch of ewes.

John Joyce farms in Carrigahorig, Co Tipperary

tack on a batch of ewes. A few days earlier as I walked the fields doing the herding, I murmured to myself how well the spring was going with no major issues with the calving or lambing as we made good

progress with field work. This was mainly down to the good weather over the winter and spring months and not my management skills. Little did I know what was

what's coming. The story starts with me

around the corner. As always

with farming, you never know

the farmyard in the morning. It was a sunny spring morning and I was aiming to get out of the yard as quickly as possible to start work in the tillage fields. Two fields over from the farmyard I heard a batch of ewes bawling, but thought nothing of it as I jumped into the JCB to feed the cattle.

thing up and headed to the

ROARING TO CALVES

We are hitting the two most important weeks of the year for grass management

KELLEHER

"IF YOU think you have enough grass at the start of the second rotation, then you probably have too much grass" is a common quotation from farmers who are seasoned campaigners when it comes to grass

measuring. And "I'd rather be looking at it than for it" is the common retort you get from those who don't measure grass. Which camp are you in?

Quantities of grass on farms are well ahead of where they normally would be for this time of year, which is primarily due to the exceptional grass growth we experienced over the winter months.

Grass growth rates since then have tracked along expected lines with Pasturebase showing national growth rates to be 27kg DM/Ha last week and expected to rise this week.

To those that measure regularly, this is the growth rate they expect. For those that don't measure; "there's no growth at the moment", is the common phrase we hear.

The attached graphic shows that this year's growth has been slightly ahead of the five-year average.

There appears to be a big variation on farms at the moment in terms of average farm covers. Those that left cows out early and followed a spring rotation plan finished their first rotation sometime over the past two weeks.

Those that delayed turnout, have very heavy covers of grass ahead of cows and are struggling to get good clean-outs in not finish for another fortnight or more on many of these farms unless paddocks are skipped.

The impact of poor grazeouts on paddocks will result in a deterioration of grass quality until well into the summer months.

A paddock that is grazed tightly now (down to 4cm) will have a grass digestibility four units greater than those that are poorly grazed now. This will result in more litres in the bulk tank and a lift in milk solids percentages.

Pre-mowing

Some will argue that pre-mowing will solve the problem, and it will, but an earlier turnout of cows would have been a much cheaper option involving a lot less labour.

Others will argue that topping will remedy the issue, but unfortunately this results in grass being wasted, slower regrowths and again unnecessary labour input.

Tight grazing now, promotes tillering of the ryegrass plant

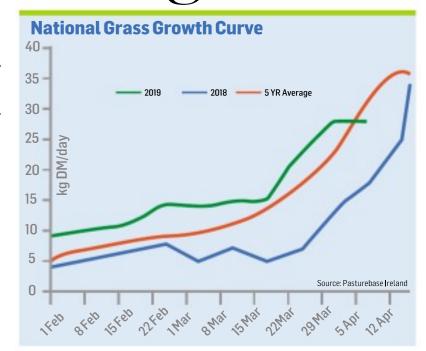
paddocks. The first round may giving a dense cover of grass on the paddock, thus increasing the potential yield of the paddock for the remainder of the year. This also increases the proportion of leaf in the plant and reduces the proportion of stem, thereby increasing the overall feed value.

For those who have finished their first rotation, maintain the average farm cover above 550kg DM/Ha and aim to have 180-200kg DM/cow. Supplement with meal according to these figures.

Spread one unit of nitrogen per day. Aim to enter pre-grazing covers of 1300kg and aim to have 10-14 days grass ahead of the cows. Do a weekly grass cover and reassess the situation on a weekly basis.

For those that commenced grazing later and have 20-30 days grass ahead of the cows, cut 10-20pc of the farm as surplus silage immediately. Reassess the situation again in a week's time.

You may have to cut again depending on growth rates. The challenge here is to at-



tain a staggered wedge and not to have a large portion of the grazing block at the same stage of growth. Aim to get the average farm cover down to 600kg within the next fortnight. Increase the stocking rate and reduce meal to 1-2kgs/ cow (while still feeding enough cal-mag to cover tetany).

At a meeting of a grass fo-

cused discussion group last week, one member of the group made the comment: "Get the grass right for the next two weeks and you're set up for the year, get it wrong and you'll be months trying to correct it".

Joe Kelleher is a Teagasc advisor based in Newcastle West, Co Limerick



Make resistance management a fungicide priority



PHELAN



CROP spraying is well underway on some farms with others yet to start. Recent reports and water quality data indicate that arable farmers are doing a good job in avoiding pesticide contamination of watercourses.

The principal management tools being used are the maintenance of buffer zones, the use of low drift nozzles and the use of STRIPE (Surface Water Tool for Reducing the Impact of Pesticides in the Environment).

The minimum buffer zones are specified on product labels and cannot be reduced unless using low drift technology or reducing pesticide rates.

Most nozzles on professional sprayers are classified for 75pc drift reduction, while some are classified for 90pc reduction and enable the user to reduce the buffer width.

Both the 75pc and 90pc types offer superior placement of pesticide on the target and reduce drift considerably. Older sprayers generally do not have low drift nozzles unless the sprayer was serviced in recent years.

Much of that servicing was

done when sprayers underwent their compulsory test in 2016. Sprayers which have not been tested and certified must not

Only trained professional users are allowed to use professional pesticides. If your sprayer is not certified or if you have not completed the training you should employ a qualified contractor to spray.

Avoid spills, stay well back from open drains and rinse empty containers three times into the sprayer. It is important to behave responsibly with pesticides as any misuse may lead to environmental damage and create a poor image for agriculture.

Part of responsible use lies with the quality of water we use with out pesticides. As most pesticides perform better in water at a pH of 5-6 you should use a water conditioner such as Spray Plus or X-change in water with high levels of bicarbonates, indicated by high pH water. Rain water is generally satisfactory but many rivers and most boreholes have

high pH water.

Under Cross Compliance farmers are obliged to leave a minimum of two metres of uncultivated ground between their crop and watercourses identified on the iNet 1:50,000 mapping layer. That buffer strip can be grazed or topped but crops cannot be harvested.

Last year's exemption from the three-crop rule due to weather conditions left some farmers under the impression the requirement no longer

However, the three-crop rule is still with us, as is the requirement for EFAs (Ecological Focus Areas). If you have difficulty in meeting the minimum 5pc EFA you may designate field margins as EFA provided that you have maintained a 2m uncultivated buffer strip.

Resistance management Resistance management is a major component of fungicide selection.

Disease prevention/control programmes must focus on presence/absence of disease closely followed by varietal resistance.

Then selection of two products, effective on the target disease, from two different fungicide groupings. Chlorothalonil, the mainstay of most resistance strategies, is still available this year.

Loss of approval prior to an

FARM EXPERIENCE



Children from Dunsany National School pictured at the launch of a new 'Farm Experience' attraction at Newbridge House and estate in Donabate, Co Dublin. PHOTO: PAUL SHERWOOD

alternative, equally effective fungicide, could have a massive impact on barley and wheat production in this country.

Despite all the negative talk on the EU regulations and rigorous proofs required on both existing and new chemistry, most agrochemical companies expect to have new actives on the market within the next three years.

What we need now is the EU to take that extra step and prohibit all imports from outside countries that do not comply with our standards.

Finally, the loss of some long-term rented tillage lands has forced some farmers into reclaiming neglected/marginal lands. The ideal time for doing such work may well be after completing sowing of spring crops.

However, Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976, as amended by Section 46 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, restricts the cutting, grubbing, burning or destruction by other means of vegetation growing on uncultivated land or in hedges or ditches during the nesting and breeding season for birds and wildlife, from March 1 to August 31.

PJ Phelan is a tillage advisor based in Tipperary and is a member of the ACA and ITCA

Triplets and quads posing multiple problems

sheep

JOHN LARGE

What a difference from last year's wash-out in March and April.

We were feeding all the ewes with nuts outside in the wet and with very little grass, we still had a lot of ewes with lambs inside, feeding continued almost into May.

This year is so different, fine weather and plenty of grass for ewes after lambing.

We put out ewes and lambs in small groups of about 30 ewes into most of the fields for the first few weeks, then grouped them up into groups of 100 ewes



We had some fields with high covers up to 1,600kg/ ha+, these covers can be a problem on a sheep farm as the fields become dirty before the grass is eaten off properly.

This year we have a group of dry hogget ewes which we are using to graze out these paddocks and they are doing a good job eating off what the ewes have left.

We do not let these hoggets into every paddock, just the ones that were almost too strong to graze in early March. We have 16ac closed for silage, this was not

grazed and got a half bag of urea in February and two bags of Cut Sward at the end of March. This should be ready for cutting in mid May.

Most sheep farmers when they meet up at this time of year ask each other how did lambing go.

After six weeks the answer is usually simple, I wish it was over. We have about 20 ewes left to lamb and I'm very relieved we have no yearling ewes in lamb this year.

Our biggest problem at lambing was too many lambs per ewe, with triplets and quads very plentiful.

We mothered off most of them, with no ewe let out to grass with more than two lambs.

These multiple lambs take up a lot of space and time in the individual pens. If we were to change anything next year we should

give the single bearing ewes more protein before lambing.

We need more milk but not bigger single lambs so maybe 100grs of soya for the last two weeks would achieve more milk. We lambed the wet two weeks of early March and almost ran out of space in the sheds for a few days. Once the weather changed it was out the door as quickly as

THE MULTIPLE **LAMBS TAKE UP A LOT OF TIME** AND SPACE IN THE PENS

we could.

The ewes carrying twins had good strong lambs and plenty of milk, any that gave trouble lambing or had only one teat working were marked and will be culled after weaning.

We got a few cases of Joint Ill and over five days we had seven ewes with mastitis - all outside and rearing twins.

All lived, after treatment with some strong antibiotics and plenty of electrolites to the ewe, but their udders are damaged and all will be culled after weaning.

Their lambs were taken off and reared artificially. These lambs were strong and started to eat meal after a couple of days so they should not need much milk.

The vet said these ewes could have picked up the infection inside in the shed and took a while to develop before showing up a week after going out to the field.

Next job is to weigh all the lambs at 40 days to show how growth weight is progressing, it will also give us an indication on how ewes have milked. Up to this age the lambs growth rate is totally dependent on the ewes ability to produce milk.

We will also dose the lambs for Nematodirus the same day using a white drench. We have already dosed one group of lambs for cocodiosis using a product with a four-week residual effect.

We will spread all the grazing ground with a compound fertiliser this week and close up some more ground for silage.

John Large farms at Gortnahoe, Co Tipperary.



farming finance

The pros and cons ofrobotic milking systems

Dairy robots can more than pay for themselves but only in the right farm structure, writes Martin O'Sullivan

N RECENT years, we have seen a steady increase in the number of **L** robotic milking systems amongst our dairy farmer clients. Some are new entrants, but many were existing operators who needed to upgrade their facilities and

decided that robots were the

way forward. My very first client who went down the robot route was a man in his late 60s milking 60 cows on his own and was seriously considering getting out of cows, but wasn't really thinking of retirement. He did his research on robots and decided he'd give it a shot as his farm layout lent itself ideally to a robotic milking system and the existing parlour facilities could be modified with moderate outlay.

Suffice to say, that five years on in his 73rd year, he is more than content with his lot and is happy that the robot has more than paid for itself already if he compares the income he would have had if he switched to beef production.

THE CASE FOR...

The big advantage of a robot is that it reduces labour dependability will and

improve the farmer's lifestyle in terms of the twice-daily commitment for up to 10 months of the year.

Elaborate milking systems don't necessarily make for better grassland management, but they can free up time to devote to such matters. Installing a robotic system can potentially save up to four hours a day when things are running smoothly. A further advantage is the potential to increase milk yield by the increased number of daily milkings, which can be up to three per day. They have also been proven to be of benefit to the cow's health, offering useful data on the animal's feed-





his herd.

THE CASE AGAINST...

Unless one has opted for a zero-grazing system, the farm structure in many instances

may present a difficulty as, ideally, the milking facility should be central to the grazing platform. Cows walking a long distance to be milked up to three times a day will expend a lot of energy getting to and from the parlour energy that could otherwise go into milk production.

A further negative is that service and electricity cost will be considerably higher than a conventional parlour.

asc showed that robotic sys- decision. tems use 68pc more electricity per litre of milk produced than the conventional herringbone parlour. The main culprits were water heating and the air compressor, while water consumption also increases.

What might also be considered a negative by some is the fact that expansion can not be achieved in the same way as it can in a herringbone system. Each robot will accommodate 65-70 cows for optimum usage, so expansion beyond that multiple will first necessitate the installation of an addiimplications of this may be challenging.

However, the main disadvantage is the capital cost, with some systems costing as much as three times that of a basic traditional herringbone system. Typically, the robot alone will cost in the region of €110,000, which means that a two-robot facility, along with the necessary infrastructure, can cost in the region of €260,000.

install a basic herringbone system for say €80,000, it would be hard to justify spending a a 60-70 cow enterprise. quarter of a million euro on the milking facility alone.

That said, labour availability and lifestyle can be cru- on a 60-70 cow enterprise, is A trial carried out by Tea- cial factors in arriving at a not realistic in the vast major-

DECIDING UPON WHICH OPTION

For those who are already established in dairying, the change from the conventional herringbone parlour to the robot can be less of a financial challenge, as much of the in place.

For these farmers, most being considerably older than those entering dairying for the a lead-in period before the first time, the 6am starts, the rewards are evident, but in 24/7 commitment punctuated with few, if any, holidays help to make the decision an easier bly altered for the better. So

instances will be in the region of €2,000 per cow.

For those new entrants to dairying, the purchase of the robot, bulk tank, drafting gates, housing and general infrastructural modifications, and other ancillary work such as farm roadways, water and electricity will bring the cost to €4,000 per cow and beyond before we even talk about the cost of stock.

If this is to be financed by Clearly, if one was happy to debt, we are talking about a total borrowing requirement in the region of €280,000 on

This represents an annual repayment of approximately €26,000 over 15 years which, ity of cases.

CONCLUSION

I am currently dealing with a considerable number of clients who have gone the robotic route and the experience, without exception, has been positive. Units typically contain one or two robots and infrastructure may already be no more, and most of those operators were existing dairy farmers.

Admittedly, there has been all cases, the quality of the farmer's life has immeasura-

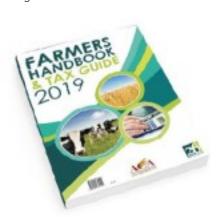
ing habits, weight and activity. tional robot. The financial one. Typically, the cost in such for those existing dairy men whose farms are suitable, have a few euro available and are toying with the robot option, I would say go for it.

A major advantage of robotic milking systems is the otential to increase milk yield

For those setting up in dairying for the first time who do not have significant cash reserves, I see the cost factor as being a serious obstacle when added to all of the other establishment costs.

Servicing a debt of perhaps €4,000 per cow in a start-up situation will be challenging, to say the least. Our most profitable and successful clients are those who operate a low-cost system with a primary focus on growing grass. When the unit is well established and profitable. more elaborate systems can be considered.

Martin O'Sullivan is the author of the ACA Farmers Handbook. He is a partner in O'Sullivan Malone and Company, accountants and registered auditors: www.som.ie.







14

Meat processors need to prove they haven't

analysis

DARRAGH **McCULLOUGH**



he Brits' notions of a glorious Brexit are slipping through their fingers by the day. Their pride will prevent them from staying in the EU but what they'll get in the end will be such a watered down version that it will all have been a pointless exercise in grandstanding.

It will quite possibly turn the UK into the angriest little nation on the planet. The Brexiteers will be furious that real politik foiled their

grandiose dreams, while Remainers will be livid with their new ostracisation.

And while some readers may argue that the UK is far from a little nation, it is certain to get smaller as the Scots use Brexit to bail out of the Union.

Who knows what will happen Northern Ireland with the DUP intent on justifying their existence and insisting that Britain really does love them when the opposite has been

demonstrated in recent months.

I'm amazed us Irish have been so restrained in our criticism of Brexiteers and the havoc that they are wreaking on our economy.

The recent figures from the ESRI were shocking: even if a hard Brexit is avoided, the cost to the Irish economy over the next 10 years would be €50bn, and 45,000 jobs.

The lads in Anglo Irish Bank were the last crowd to cost the Irish taxpayer tens of billions in wasted money, and they have been rightly pilloried in Irish society.

The Brits have been totally unapologetic for the massive negative impact their actions have already started to have on Ireland Inc. In fact, the opposite is more so the case with Irish politicians being

slated by British media and politicians if they have the temerity to even suggest that the Leavers cop themselves

I suppose we've shown restraint because we know that to speak our minds now will only make the process more painful. But expect a lot of venting from Irish quarters once the divorce papers are signed.

Silver lining

The only possible silver lining is that Brexit is forcing Irish businesses that were traditionally reliant on the UK to look everywhere else to survive. That could finally break the dependence of the Irish economy on the British market and make us stronger long term.

We've already seen a lot of evidence of this from the Irish dairy sector. Before Brexit, we depended on offloading nearly one billion litres of the national milk pool into cheddar cheese specifically for the British market. That's worth nearly €260m annually. A WTO tariff in a hard Brexit would wipe out Irish cheddar sales to the UK overnight by slapping €196m of import taxes onto that amount.

These were figures compiled by IBEC, who also estimate that the least worst outcome in any hard Brexit would be for the Irish dairy industry to shift half of the 100,000 tonnes normally destined for the UK market to everywhere else in the world and divert the rest of the milk into other types of cheeses.

This course of action would 'only' cost the dairy industry €33m, or the equivalent of about 3c per litre.

Now before you dismiss the notion of millions of Asians ditching their noodles for cheese sandwiches, consider the fact that cheddar exports to Japan have tripled to over 7pc of Ireland's cheddar exports in the last three years (yes, it has been that long since the Brexit vote).

In a country where rice bars actually exist, it's heartening to hear that grated cheddar on your bowl of fried rice is now on the menu. Cheddar bombs are also allegedly a trend in South Korea.

Ironically, UK exports of cheddar to Europe have grown strongly in recent years to reach nearly 80,000

We have to follow the money'

Dairygold chief says Ireland needs to focus on growing markets, reports Margaret Donnelly

Ireland has to be prepared for risks such as Brexit and global trade wars, according to Dairygold CEO Jim Woulfe.

"We're an exporting nation, we have to follow the money. We have to follow the markets that are growing and giving the return, and there is always risk with that, such as Trump, Brexit and other trade agreements. They are always going to iron themselves out at the end of the day.

"We can't react or jump to every whim, to every utterance or tweet by Trump. We have to be conscious of the trends that are evolving. We're conscious of the shenanigans that are hard Bexit. there but they don't influence our day to day."

to a cliff-edge hard exit with our customers and mak-WTO tariffs being imposed by the UK, could cost the dairy processor €50m, while the indicative tariffs proposed by the UK would cost the processor around €9m.

the Dairygold team, the main challenge facing them is how over the next four years. to recover such costs.

and get it back is the marketplace, but the UK market is unforgiving and the UK retail scene is really challenging.

AS an exporting country, There is going to be a lot of pushback, if you're going to try to get a cost increase in the price of cheese.

> "We don't have wiggle room to take on that kind of cost.

"Obviously the other area is the producer side. From a farmer point of view, it's a very serious position if we're in the hard, cliff-edge non-negotiatble WTO scene — even the €9m scenario, that's quite an exposure in the form of three-quarters a cent per litre."

Dairygold sends 30,000t of its cheese to the UK market and currently has six months' of cheddar cheese stockpiled in the UK in the event of a

"We have done what we can do in the context of cheese Brexit, he said, if it comes stocks, working closely with ing sure that our business is least impacted by any type of Brexit."

Milk supplies

Dairygold is forecasting that And for Mr Woulfe and its milk supply will almost double to what it was in 2009,

According to its annual "The natural place to try report, suppliers are projecting to increase milk production by an additional 23pc to 1,650 million litres by 2023, which will require the society



to increase its peak processing capacity by around 8 million litres per week.

However, future consideration for the next phase of primary processing investment has to be the funding model and who finances it, the society and/or the members, according to Woulfe.

"Our post-quota plans of 2012 had three pillars of

investment to fund the model, including the bank and mem-

"That was great when 80pc were in expansion mode. Now, the numbers of expanders are becoming less and we have to discuss it with elected representatives.

members what to do. We can

work in whichever way, but the litre of milk is going to pay in some shape or fashion.

"We have to have the disand more of our members cussion with the new entrant and expander, do they have to fund some more.

"I don't want to lead the debate in any direction.

"We're only putting it out "We are not going to tell our there that the discussion has to happen."

MEP urges convergence impact assessment

MEP Mairead McGuinness has called on **Minister for Agriculture** Michael Creed to carry out an impact assessment on full convergence of EU payments

on farm families. The EU Parliament has called for full convergence of payments by the end of 2027. While Ms McGuinness said this is positive for farmers with low entitlements, it could result in others losing money.

"I'm concerned about the unintended consequence of convergence where full-time farm families with above the average entitlement value will lose money, while land owners with significant off-farm income will gain at their expense," Ms McGuinness told the Bank of Ireland's Future of Farming event in Oranmore, Co Galway.

"Painting convergence as simply taking from the rich to give to the poor ignores the complex reality at farm level."

Protection. It's in our nature. FBD Insurance Group Ltd trading as FBD Insurance is regulated by the

Central Bank of Ireland. Farm insurance is underwritten by FBD Insurance plc.

Doyle sets sights on EU post

MINISTER of State for Forestry Andrew Doyle has signed his intention to run for the European elections as a candidate for the Ireland South Constituency in May.

Minister Doyle has served as a Junior Minister at the Department of Agriculture since 2016. Almost 50 candidates

were declared for **European Elections in** Ireland at the close of the deadline yesterday.

If the UK has not left the EU by May 24 polling day, Ireland will have 11 seats. Ireland South and Dublin constituencies will receive one extra seat each in the event of Brexit occurring before election day.





given up on our beef sector

tonnes. If we get the boot in the UK, you can be pretty sure that the cheese packs with a Union Jack will make way for the tricolour on the shelves of Carrefour in France and Kaufland in Germany.

You'll also have noticed that Irish milk processors have invested in pretty much everything *bar* cheddar since 2016. Dairygold have earmarked €130m to build a new cheese plant at Mogeely to supply Scandinavian markets, along with beefing up it's powder facilities in Mallow.

Glanbia has started into their own €130m mozzarella plant in Laois, which is designed to pump out up to 50,000t of pizza toppings in a joint venture with US-based Leprino Foods. They have

an even bigger investment through another partnership with Dutch company Royal A-ware to build an Edam and Gouda factory at Belview in Waterford.

The new 10,000t infant milk formula factory that opened in Meath this month



GLOBALLY

is another good sign of an industry climbing up the value chain and side-stepping the old reliables.

So the dairy industry has done a lot in the last three years to pivot away from the old reliable of the UK cheddar market.

Beef barons

Contrast this with the beef sector.

Over the same period I've seen Irish beef barons make massive investments in their UK processing capacity. ABP has invested over €40m in its facilities, while Kepak have bought out the 2 Sisters Red Meat company with four separate factories.

I can't see those investments being of any benefit to Irish beef farmers

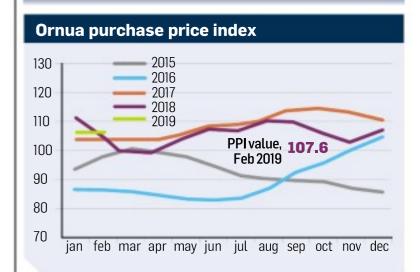
deal for food imports. A major part of the problem for the beef sector is that once taken out of protected European and British markets, Irish meat is not competitive globally. So it's not going to suddenly find doors opening in Japanese rice bars or as pizza toppings in China.

The meat bosses know this but just haven't told anyone yet. They have at least another six months to come up with a plan, but to be honest I wouldn't be holding my breath.

And if they haven't actually given up on the Irish beef sector, let them come out and prove it.

Darragh McCullough farms in Meath and presents RTÉ's Ear to in a Brexit that has no special the Ground television programme.

AT A GLANCE



Global Dairy Trade price index

Last event	Change in GDT Price from previous ever	Average price (€/t)	
O2 APR	0.8%	1	€3,102
Milk fat	Butter	Butter mil powder	k Cheddar
+3.7 % €5,226	+5.8 % €4,787	+5.0% €3,160	+3.2 % €3,784
		-	
-5.3 % €844	+7.5 % €5,971	+1.8% €2,198	-1.3 % €2,928
Lactose	Rennet Casein	Skim milk powder	Whole milk powder

EU prices (source: Eurostat)

	Feb 2019	Chan	ge since last month
Raw milk	34.9	€/100 kg	0.2%
	Week 14 Compared	to the average of	the previous 4 weeks
Butter	421	€/100 kg	0.2%
SMP	188	€/100 kg	0.9%
WMP	289	€/100 kg	0.8%
Cheddar	330	€/100 kg	0.5%

Last event	from previous even	Average price (€/t)	
02 APR	0.8%	1	€3,102
Milk fat	Butter	Butter mill powder	^K Cheddar
+3.7 %	+5.8 %	+5.0 %	+3.2 %
€5,226	€4,787	€3,160	€3,784
-5.3 %	+7.5 %	+1.8 %	-1.3 %
€844	€5,971	€2,198	€2,928
Lactose	Rennet	Skim milk	Whole milk
	Casein	powder	powder

The shaded dials indicate the proportion of each product sold during the previous year. Figures within represent the percentage change in GDT Price Index and the weighted average price.

FRENCH FARMER WINS LATEST CASE AGAINST MONSANTO



A FRENCH COURT last week upheld a guilty verdict against chemical giant Monsanto over the poisoning of a farmer who suffered neurological damage after using one of its weedkillers.

Cereal farmer Paul Francois (pictured left) has been fighting Monsanto, which was bought by Bayer last year, for the past 12 years.

Despite losing the latest case, its second appeal against a 2012 verdict in the case, the company still has the option of a further appeal to France's top appeals court.

Mr Francois said he began experiencing symptoms including blackouts, headaches and loss of balance and memory after inhaling fumes while using the now-banned weedkiller Lasso.

PHOTO: PRESS ASSOCIATION

Farmers can borrow up to €80k under new credit union package

DECLAN O'BRIEN

CARLOW CREDIT UNION is launching a new loan package this spring which is tailored specifically at the needs of farmers.

The agri-loan scheme will cater for borrowings from a minimum of €3,000 to a maximum of €50,000 in most cases.

However, the maximum loan value may be extended to €80,000 where farmers have TAMS approval and are just waiting on payment to issue.

Under the agri-loan scheme — which is Central Bank approved — the loan terms can vary up to a maximum of seven years. Interest rates on the agriloans are set at 6.5pc per annum or 6.71pc APR.

Carlow Credit Union said loans will be available for the full range of farmer requirements, and will typically cover such areas as working capital, machinery purchase or farm building work.

Over the last two years credit unions have become more active in the agri-lending space, with similar loan packages launched in Galway, Clare and Limerick.

Marian O'Toole of Carlow Credit Union said it was a natural progression for the society to expand into the farm loan business given its catchment area.

"Since 2015 three other credit unions merged into us, namely, Ballon/Rathoe, Rathvilly and Mayo/Doonane. These mergers now extend our common bond area well into rural areas near to

Bunclody, Co Wexford, up to Donard, Co Wicklow and over to Timahoe, Co Laois," Ms O'Toole explained

"These offices would have been helping rural members save and borrow for several years. Up to now we have not been visually active in the farming community but our board of directors have approved this new agri loan, which we hope will provide an alternative finance option for farmers when they require finance to operate their farm. If you are not already a member with us, you can join and apply for a loan on the same day," she added.

The agri-loan package will be launched by Irish rugby international, Sean O'Brien, at the Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow on Tuesday, April 30.

Irish Stock Exchange Monday, April 8 at 4.15pm

Company	€	Year high	Year low
S			
AIB	4.22	5.29	3.70
Aryzta	1.24	19.2	0.87
Bank of Ireland	6.03	7.64	4.78
FBD	8.74	12.45	8.20
Glanbia	17.48	19.00	14.49
Kerry	97.55	99.7	81.75
Total Produce	1.60	2.44	1.47





NEWS



'The dairy influence has led to a huge reduction in quality'

Storm Powell travelled to Tullamore Mart to hear farmers' views on dairy-bred stock coming into the beef chain, 'Meatless Mondays' and the lack of premium payments for cattle

Tom Cox Strokestown, Co Roscommon **Auctioneer Tom Cox** also farms a 160-cow

suckler herd near Strokestown. "Considering the uncertainty of Brexit, prices for stores are quite good at present," says Tom. "A lot of buyers

only graze for the grass season and they have been receiving a reasonable return over the last few years. But, the beef man is not receiving enough for finished cattle when overheads are taken into account. "The dairy influence on beef and store

cattle has led to huge reduction in quality," says Tom. Previously, the bulk of good continental cattle were R and U grade, now we see a lot of O and P grade cattle coming to the market. More exports would improve competition and this could reduce the dairybred stock on the market."

Tom is not happy with An Taisce's leaflet to schools which encourages children to eat less meat and dairy products. "We will always eat meat and, hopefully, their recommendations won't reduce consumption."

On premium payments, Tom is fully in support of a premium of €200 to €250 per suckler cow and worries that the suckler herd will be decimated if further aid is not provided.

Michael Mullins

Roscrea, Co Tipperary Cattle dealer, Michael Mullins from Gurteen, Ballybritt is also a drystock farmer on around 175ac of which 100ac is rented.



"Whereas store prices are holding up, the price for beef cattle is outrageously poor," savs Michael. "Farmers need to have a say in the price of the product they are producing. Factories should be forced to negotiate prices

Michael is concerned about the influx of dairy-bred cattle into the beef chain. "The suckler man needs to get €200 a head to maintain the quality breeds. We will be left with dairy-bred cattle if there is no further subsidy for sucklers."

On An Taisce's message to schools, Michael says: "Messages like this can seriously damage the industry. If farmers are forced out of the business, it will take years to build the industry back up again."

Jason Mahon

Rosenallis, Co Laois 20-year-old Jason farms part-time with his uncle Daniel in Graigue, Mountmellick and also has a part-time job off-farm. They have sucklers and followers -

about 50 cattle in total on 60ac.

"Trade is good today," says Jason, "but the uncertainty of Brexit and also the increasing overhead costs of feed and fertiliser are an ongoing concern for us.

"The influx of dairy-bred stock is damaging trade of good quality cattle that are now in less supply," says Jason who would welcome increased subsidies for sucklers. "But cattle prices are a bigger concern."

Commenting on the An Taisce leaflet, Jason says: "Young people need meat and dairy in their diet. Greenhouse gas emissions caused by transportation should be tackled ahead of emissions from farming."

Gary Brazil

Killeigh, Co Offaly Gary farms 30 suckler cows on 90ac. He also works in the building trade. "Prices are good

today but margins for the beef man are poor as stores have become so dear," says Gary who usually sells his cattle in the summer as 1½-year-olds.

With the increase of dairy-bred cattle for sale, Gary says: "There should be a premium paid for suckler-bred cattle or a bonus scheme for non-dairy stock."

Gary would like to see Bord Bia become more involved in the provision of educational programmes for school children. "Show them some of the positives of farming. Show them healthy cattle rather than greasy burgers. Highlight the good aspects," he says.

On promoting Irish beef in general terms, Gary says: "We are reliant on an export market. Our unique selling point is the superior quality of our grass-fed cattle and this needs to be highlighted."

Gary suggests that a premium should be paid to producers of quality carcases in the factory. "What's the point of producing quality animals for the factory if we are not rewarded?" he asks. He would also welcome the development of exports of dead animals "seeking new markets with emphasis on the quality, green-ness and traceability of the animal."

Seamus Flanagan

Portarlington, Co Offaly Seamus is a parttime beef farmer on 45ac in Cloneyhurke. He also works as a shop manager for Glanbia.



"Prices have improved in the last few months but there is a very low margin for finished cattle," says Seamus who rears calves to beef. "Prices are down from this time last year and overheads have increased."

On dairy-bred stock, Seamus applauds the recent introduction of the Twenty20 programme whereby Glanbia and Kepak have announced a new calf-to-beef programme for 50,000 calves that will provide a cashflow payment of €770 over a calf's lifetime. "This programme will involve the rearing and finishing of calves who originate from the dairy herds of Glanbia suppliers," says Seamus.

"An Taisce's actions will harm the meat and dairying industry," says Seamus. "A note going home from school encouraging people not to eat meat and dairy products will affect the industry. The positive elements of meat and dairy consumption need to be promoted in schools. A balanced diet is essential. A reduction in the carbon footprint should not be at the expense of beef production."



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Factories cut hogget quotes by 10-15c/kg

factories

AFTER a jump of up to 30c/ kg last week for hoggets some factory bosses returned after their weekend break yesterday in a less than positive mood and slashed their quotes by 10-15c/kg.

The two plants in question are Kepak Athleague which tumbled its hogget quote by 15c/kg to €5.20+15c/ kg, while Kildare Chilling shaved 10c/kg off its quote for hogget, leaving them on €5.40+10c/kg. That quote from Kildare leaves them just 10c/kg behind the all-in price at the head of our price table of €5.50/kg for hogget as offered yesterday by Moyvalley Meats.

Kepak is joined on €5.20/ kg for hoggets by Dawn Ballyhaunis, while ICM's twin plants at Camolin and Navan continue from last week at €5.30+10. Quotes for new season lamb remained unchanged with Moyvalley still out in front on €6.50/kg, closely followed by Kildare on €6.40+10c/kg QA. Next up are the two ICMs on €6.30+10c/kg QA, with both Dawn and Kepak bringing up the rear on €6.20/kg plus their various bonuses.

Quotes for cull ewes also continued unchanged with Kildare leading by 10c/kg at €2.90+10c/kg quality from the €2.80/kg from both Dawn and Kepak.

out the table for culls on €2.70/kg.

Numbers of lambs and hoggets at marts rose last week and reports from Athenry, New Ross and Raphoe yesterday indicated further strong sale numbers with prices steady.

The belief is that factories have been gradually getting their order books filled over the last month or so and with prices for lamb starting from such a low base — because of where they had managed to push hoggets — there is a belief among some that it will be difficult to get up to the magic €7.00/kg mark for lamb with yesterday's price cuts for hogget by both Kepak and Kildare adding fuel to that fire.

ICSA's Sean McNamara told me that the best of the prices on the ground see new lamb at €6.70-6.80/kg, with the best of the hoggets fit to get €5.70/kg.

"It is possible factories may have to give more as the week goes on but right now, they are doing their best to hold the price," Sean said. He added that he has a belief that lamb will rise post Easter as factories and exporters gear up for the



Was paid for 50kg

hoggets at Tullow.

MAYO HEALTHCARE

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ewes at New Ross.

marts

1 DELVIN

"Granted numbers were back but the trade was good," Thomas Potterton reported. Sample prices among the lambs/hoggets saw €125/hd given for 49kg, with the overall average price for those lambs from 40-50kg working out at €2.52/kg. Heavier hoggets saw 50.4kg sell for €132/hd, with the same price accepted for a batch at 54kg. The small show of store lambs saw 38kg make €80/hd.

2 TUAM

The sale here saw lambs/hoggets make up to €77/hd with their weight. Among the sample prices were 60kg at €135/hd and 50.5kg at €128/hd. Trade for cull ewes topped out at €108/hd, while on the breeding side ewes with twins sold to a top of €270/hd.

3 BLESSINGTON

With Easter rapidly approaching demand for that traditional lamb dinner helped push up prices for hogget here by €3-4/hd. Butcher types sold from €128-134/hd, with factory hoggets making from €110-126/hd. Store hogget sold from €80-100/hd. Fat ewes made from €115-130/hd, while the lighter feeding type sold from €70-108/hd.

4 TULLOW

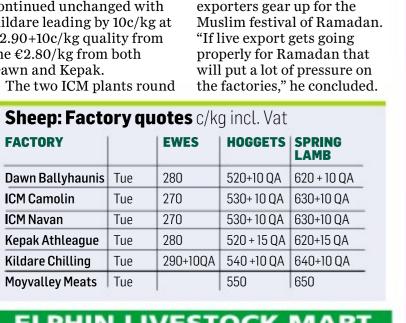
This was a big sale with the trade up by €7-8/hd for hogget and spring lamb better by €4-5/hd in anticipation of Easter. Hoggets over 50kg sold from €126-134/ hd. Lighter stores sold from a base of €95/hd, 43-44kg made from €110-115/hd, with 48-50kg selling from €120-128/hd. Heavy cast ewes saw a top of €151/ hd paid. The good entry of spring lamb saw prices for 39-42kg range from €110-115/hd, with heavier 43-52kg lamb making from €120-128/hd.

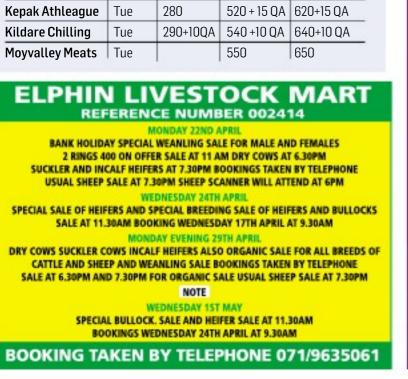
5 NEW ROSS

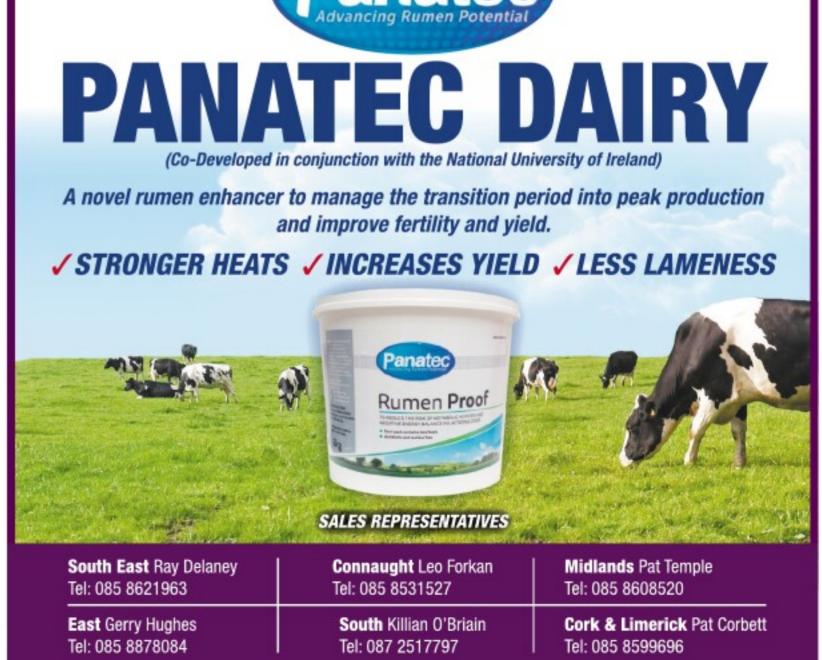
Prices for those new season lambs averaged €120-132/ hd with the majority making €128-130/hd. Prices for hogget averaged €125-130/hd. The cull ewe trade was very strong with prices ranging from €120-147/hd for heavier types with lighter culls selling from €80-120/hd.

6 HEADFORD

The story from here last week was of spring lamb selling from €108-137/hd, with samples seeing 44kg at €140/hd, 48kg at €137 and with those at 37.5kg making €108/hd. Top call among the cull ewes was €85/hd, while the breeding ewes with lambs at foot sold for €140-235/hd.









Prices rise as farmers pay no heed to **Brexit fears**

marts

A MONTH ago, this column reported how mart managers noted that some of those ringside appeared to have no fear of where the Irish cattle trade might go post March 29, the then date for the UK to exit the

March 29 has come and gone, and the UK is still in the EU. Now we are supposed to wait until October 31 for something to happen.

The relevance of this is that no business can put itself on hold indefinitely - least of all the cattle business.

The seasons change, grass grows, and those in the extended beef business make their plans early for summer and autumn.

And so, two weeks on from March 29, average cattle prices for bullocks, heifers and weanlings were stronger last week than they were a month ago.

It's a reminder that time and tide waits for no man.

The pragmatic Irish cattle farmer with grass to graze and stock to buy has gone about his business as normal, in the hope that in the longer term the world will sort out its own problems, Brexit or no Brexit. Not for him the gnashing of teeth.

Politics aside, mart prices have continued to strengthen, with increases on the bullock front seeing overall Ringside averages increase by 1-4c/kg last week, while on the heifer side overall averages rose by 3-5c/kg.

The resumption of a meaningful shipping trade has seen a couple of weeks of intermittent price increases.

However, last week prices on the weanling bull and heifer tables moved up in unison across all averages and most quality categories.

In the weanling bull section, the 100-299kg animal rose 5c/kg to €2.34/ kg average, leaving him at

€234-700/hd. The biggest price increase came in the bottom quarter, where prices rose 13c/kg to €1.74/

The bottom quarter of the 300-399kg section also rose last week, up 5c/kg at €1.79/kg, while the better bull at this weight rose 7c/ kg on average.

All this positive movement left the overall average price of your 300-399kg bull better by 6c/kg at €2.31/kg.

The 400-600kg bull, while seeing some positive moves among the better animals, was unchanged at €2.11/kg.

Returning to the steers and heifers, while their average price increases may not appear massive, you have to allow that mart numbers have been very strong very early, with last week continuing that trend.

Asked if they felt Brexit was a factor in flushing out extra stock ahead of March 29, Thomas Potterton of Delvin and Barney O'Connell in Kerry both felt that the kind weather in February and March combined with the resultant early grass growth were more significant.

Despite yesterday's rain, this week's forecast is promised good, with warm temperatures, and I expect both numbers and demand to remain strong for the short term at least.

NO BUSINESS CAN GO ON HOLD INDEFINITELY — **LEAST OF ALL** THE CATTLE **BUSINESS**

IN THE KNOW

Thomas Potterton reported a good trade, with bullocks especially sought after and numbers up on the previous week. Top price per kg among those bullocks saw a 350kg Charolais selling for €3.08/kg. Prices in the 400-500kg section averaged €1.56-2.21/kg, with Thomas noting that overall prices this year are tending lower than 12 months ago.

Barney O'Connell said sales have tended bigger far earlier this year. He reckons this is less to do with Brexit than with the weather and grass growth. Sample prices among the bullocks in a largely Friesian, Hereford and Angus-dominated yard included €1,005/ hd for 16 486kg Herefords sold together, with 11 433kg Friesians selling for €735/hd. On the heifer side 300-400kg Angus made from €1.90-2.00/kg, with Herefords making €1.70-2.00/kg. Cull cows made €1-1.40/kg.

3 BALLINAKILLThis was also a big sale with trade "very good" for all types of grazing cattle, although lesser-quality stock were slow sellers. Heavy bullocks made €1.95-2.35, with forward stores €2.05-2.55/kg, while your lighter store made €2.15-3.10/kg. Beef heifers made €1.90-2.45/kg, with store heifers on

€2.00-2.95/kg. Weanling bulls sold from €2.00-2.85/kg, with weanling heifers making €2.10-3.00/kg. Dry cows sold for €1.20-

ENNISThe big numbers on offer may have eased the pressure off of both bullocks and heifers with a majority of bullocks falling into the 500kg+ bracket. Sample prices on the bullock side included an 830kg Charolais that sold for €2.29/kg and two 705kg Friesians that saw the hammer at €1.92/kg. In the forward bullock section seven 566kg Limousins made €2.29/kg, with a 595kg Limousin showing his superior lines at €2.61/ kg. A 550kg Hereford clicked €2.09/kg. The cull cow trade was sharp with a 620kg Limousin setting the bar at €2.19/kg.

CARNEW

Strong demand among exporters here saw a 350kg Belgian Blue weanling make €1,590 or €4.50/kg. In general, weanling bulls sold from €2.40-3.05/kg, with those going for feeding making €1.90-2.37/kg. Weanling heifers suitable for export made €2.32-3.00/kg, with feeding heifers on €1.82-2.55/kg. On the dairy side freshly, calved heifers made €1,200-1,780/hd, with freshly calved cows €1,100-1,480/hd. Springing

cows made €900-1,220, while bulling heifers and yearlings made €550-750/hd.

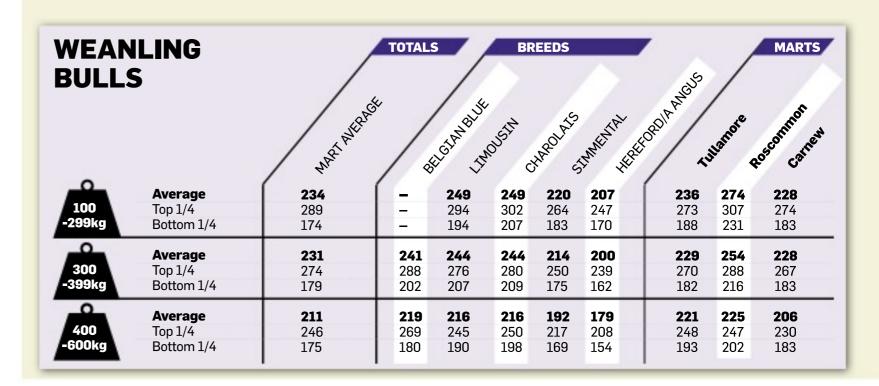
CASTLEREA

Charolais heifers made up to €2.84/kg with the top of the Limousins seeing €2.54/ kg as trade remained strong. Sample prices among the weanling bulls included a 260kg Charolais that sold for €3.52/kg, a 395kg Limousin at €2.91/kg, with a 415kg Charolais making €2.70/kg. Weanling heifers also cracked on well with a 395kg Limousin and a 345kg Charolais among the top prices at €2.94/kg and €3.04/kg respectively. There was a large number of calves on offer, with prices better by €20-30/hd. This left dairy types to sell from €50-110/hd, with Hereford and Angus calves making €200-385/hd. Continentals saw a top call of €460.

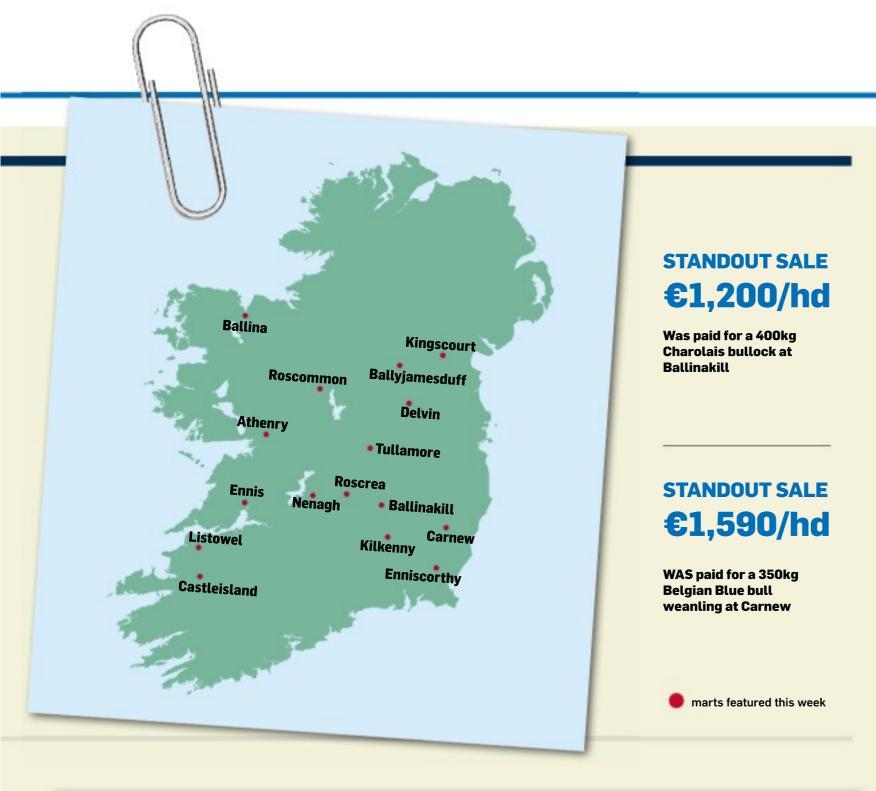
MAAM CROSS

Another yard with good numbers. Cows averaged €1.56-2.23/kg. Top price for a cow with calf at foot went to an April 2011 Limousin with Charolais heifer calf at foot. Heifers averaged €2.24-3.01/kg, with bullocks making €2.28-3.07/kg. Weanling bull prices ranged from €2.26-3.31/kg. Biggest price of the day saw the owner of a May 2018-born 490kg Charolais bull going home with a cheque for €1,125.

TOTALS BREEDS **STEERS HERETORDI** AMOUS CONTRACTAL Kingscourt RIESTAN 201 208 243 150 222 212 161 204 189 **Average** 226 171 Top 1/4 267 285 262 283 199 268 224 Bottom 1/4 148 201 175 129 178 162 133 142 151 211 228 199 162 222 217 186 216 192 Average 253 260 225 257 258 203 258 222 186 Top 1/4 Bottom 1/4 167 196 176 137 183 169 156 171 158 225 170 214 206 195 216 196 190 **500** 244 251 216 244 214 Top 1/4 187 253 244 199 168 196 174 174 186 188 172 166 Bottom 1/4 153 202 212 187 167 204 209 208 **Average** 600kg Top 1/4 230 204 184 227 226 232 233 plus Bottom 1/4 172 188 169 184 141 184 183







HEIFERS	MART AVER	TOTALS	BREED	ARIGUS	Meering &	MA ROSS	RTS	A Salle is and Ballina
300 Average Top 1/4 -399kg Bottom 1/4	215 252 178	226 257 194	189 210 163	225 248 191	208 237 172	233 265 202	219 258 183	224 254 196
Average 400 Top 1/4 -499kg Bottom 1/4	213 246 180	222 251 193	192 216 170	210 239 179	195 225 171	217 237 194	202 249 168	222 250 200
Average 500 Top 1/4 -599kg Bottom 1/4	209 239 181	218 243 194	188 206 170	212 232 190	191 217 173	220 242 195	179 216 157	207 229 194
Average 600kg Top 1/4 plus Bottom 1/4	205 226 184	210 228 192	188 204 175	=	_ _ _	- - -	-	=

WEANLIN HEIFERS	G MARCI P	TOTAL		BREEDS	MARKET AND	ORDINATED S	Tree-dust Ros	MARTS Contract
	rage 236	(-	254	254 –	191	261	259	215
100 Top 1 -299kg Botto		-	298	300 – 202 –	236	309	291	250
	om 1/4 178	_	210	202 –	159	195	213	182
Avei	rage 237	229	240	240 –	208	252	250	213
300 Top 1	1/4 277	267	275	288 -	254	297	286	248
-399kg Botto	om 1/4 191	194	204	214 –	168	208	203	179
	rage 223		227	227 –	192	231	239	207
400 Top 1			257	227 – 265 –	213	2 31 265	274	235
100.	om 1/4 189	_	194	195 –	172	196	199	184
Botto	01111/4 109		134	130 -	112	130	199	104

FACTORY FIGURES

	Grid Quote Range	General Prices Paid	Tops Reported
Steers	370-375	370	375
Heifers	380-385	380	385

	E	U	R	0	P
Cull Cows	28100185	SECURE PRO	300-310	280-290	270
Young Bulls		350-360	340-350	330-340	

Small signs of faith being rewarded

factories

EASTER is the great Christian celebration of hope, the time when we are told that provided we have led good and righteous lives, we can look forward to eternal life in the hereafter.

The dedication shown by those who fatten cattle is akin to a religious belief — a belief that someday your faith will be rewarded.

Yesterday morning that day moved possibly a step closer with reports emerging that prices appear to have begun the long road to recovery, with €3.75/kg for bullocks and €3.85/kg for heifers available.

This is not exactly road to Damascus stuff, as that extra 5c/kg had been hovering around for a little while, but the reports I got suggested it had become more widespread over the weekend.

I did speak to agents in continue to quote €3.70/kg and €3.80/kg, yet in the next parish their competition had moved the goalposts by that 5c/kg.

Prices for cull cows, while remaining apparently steady, do seem to be showing signs of tightening: agents who had been starting their quotes at €2.50-2.60/kg for better P grades a week ago were yesterday up to €2.70/kg, with maybe a shake more for the right customer. R grades are at €3.00-3.10/kg with O grades on €2.80-2.90/kg.

Prices for bulls, however, show little sign of recovery, with quotes yesterday seeing U grades at €3.50-3.60/kg, Rs on €3.40-3.50/kg and O grade bulls on €3.30-3.40/kg. Meanwhile, some plants are continuing to offer only €3.00/kg for O grade Friesians.

Reduction

The national kill was back 289hd on the previous week at 35,295. It's a small reduction but every little helps.

As the agriculture committee peruse the various submissions made on the future of the Irish beef sector, the south and the west who I hope they consider the initiative taken by Foyle Meats (Carrigan's) of Donegal, who have adopted a policy of paying quality payments across all grades of bullocks and heifers once they fall within market-specified weights and retentions — as opposed to the far more restricted policy adopted by other plants.

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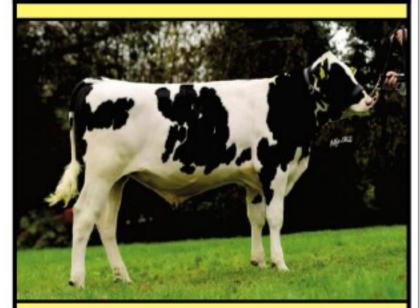


Tough trade for Hereford bulls

Sale results on par with last year at Nenagh show and sale but several prizewinners — including overall champion — fail to reach breeders' reserves, reports **Martin Ryan**



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Genomic, PED- Source: ICBF, Mar. 2019

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HEREFORD bulls met with a tough trade before a small attendance of customers at the Irish Hereford Society Show and Sale of Bulls at Nenagh Mart on Saturday.

Nevertheless, the results shaped up well, with the top price of €3,000 on par with the leading price at the sale in 2018, while the sale recorded an average price of €2,353 and a clearance of 48pc.

Some quality bulls failed to reach their breeders' reserve and did not find new homes. Among them were the overall champion and reserve champion of the show, and a number of the prize-winners from the earlier show.

While auctioneer Hugh Mulvihill found it hard going to get the bidding above €2,500 during the first half of the sale, the first prize-winner in his class, Ballinveney United 2, a lovely quality bull, did break the mould. After spirited bidding, the hammer dropped at €3,000, and he became the day's price leader.

The November 2017-born, five-star Terminal and four-star Replacement index bull came from the well-established herd of Rory Farrell at Ballinveney, Toomevara, only a few miles from the sale venue, and was a herd mate of the champion of the show.

Price topper

It is the second time in three years that the north Tipperary herd has bred the price topper at the sale, having done so with the Reserve Champion in 2017.

Ballinveney United 2 was bred out of the herd dam Ballinveney Primrose and by the home-bred sire Ballinveney Nigel, carrying Yarram Star General genes in his pedigree.

Second highest price was €2,650 for the July 2017-born, Corran Hill Email, bred and exhibited by Ivor and Colin Anderson of Corran, Derrylane, Killeshandra, Co Cavan, the blue rosette winner in his class with the herd also getting the third highest price for Corran Hill Empire who sold for €2,550.

New homes were found for four bulls at €2,500. They were Ardmulchan Native exhibited by Philip Smyth of Ardmulchan, Navan, Co Meath; Rathkenty Quercus from the herd of Richard and John Lalor, Rathkenty, Lisronagh, Clonmel, Co Tipperary; and Kye George and Kye Harry both from Padraig McGrath's herd at Cloonshannagh, Elphin, Co Roscommon.



Irish Hereford Society Show and Sale results

Bulls born on or between April 9, 2017 and July 31, 2017

- **1.** Philip Smyth, Ardmulchan, Navan, Co Meath
- **2.** Ivor and Colin Anderson, Corran, Derrylane,
- Killeshandra, Co Cavan **3.** Niall Daly and Lisa Holloway, Rossa, Moate, Co Westmeath
- **4.** Richard and John Lalor, Rathkenty, Lisronagh, Clonmel, Co Tipperary

Bulls born on or between August 1, 2017 and September 30, 2017

1. Coman Neary, Clooncullane, Strokestown, Co Roscommon

- **2.** S and N Heatrick, Annareagh, Glaslough, Co Monaghan
- **3.** Patrick Rohan, Curraghbehy, Mullinavat, Co Kilkenny.
- **4.** Ivor and Colin Anderson, Corran, Derrylane, Killeshandra, Co Cavan

Bulls born on or between October 1, 2017 and October 31, 2017

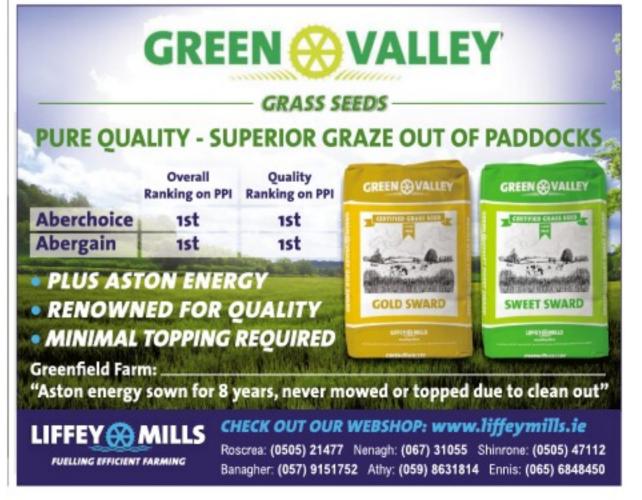
- Rory Farrell, Ballinveney, Toomevara, Nenagh, Co Tipperary
 S and N Heatrick,
- Annareagh, Glaslough, Co Monaghan
- **3.** T and A Fitzgerald, Glebe

House, Mt Temple, Moate, Co Westmeath.

4. T and A Fitzgerald, Glebe House, Mt Temple, Moate, Co Westmeath

Bulls born on or between November 1, 2017 and April 9, 2018

- 1. Rory Farrell, Ballinveney Toomevara, Nenagh, Co
- Tipperary **2.** Padraig McGrath,
 Cloonshannagh, Elphin, Co
- Roscommon 3. S and N Heatrick, Annareagh, Glaslough, Co
- Monaghan 4. John and Mary Johnston, Annameadle, Toomevara, Nenagh, Co Tipperary.







Left: Exhibitors Rory, Brian, Seamus and Daniel Farrell of Ballinveney, Toomevara, Nenagh, Thomas Larkin, judge William Jones, and IHS president Martin Murphy with Overall Champion Ballinveney Utube at the Irish Hereford Society Show and Sale at Nenagh

Right: Catherine Smyth from Ardmulchan, Navan, Co Meath with first prizewinner Ardmulchan Native.

Below: Coman Neary of Clooncullane, Strokestown, Co Roscommon with his first prizewinner, Clooncullane Captain.

Sash goes to Ballinveney Utube

TOOMEVARA Hereford breeder Rory Farrell is no stranger to success in the show ring for animals from his Ballinveney Herd, but rarely have his odds been better in a championship bid than at the Irish Hereford Society Show and Sale at Nenagh on

Red rosettes for Ballinveney Herd-bred bulls in both the third and fourth classes shortened the odds for another championship success with half the lineout for the top award in his favour.

Show judge William Jones from Creagh, Keenagh, Co Longford didn't hesitate in tapping forward the October 2017-born Ballinveney Utube for the sash, having admired the three-star bull in the earlier classes where he awarded him the red rosette.

Utube is bred from Ballinveney Pier and by Steil Gerard, a Churchill Storm gene sire. The other contender from the herd was Ballinveney United which went on to become the sale price topper at €3,000.

The three bulls entered from the herd of Sam and Nigel Heatrick, who showed the champion in 2018, each received rosettes in their respective classes, but the red rosettes to qualify for the lineout for the championship didn't come their way on this occasion.

Other breeders to receive more than one award in the classes included T and A Fitzgerald from Glebe House, Mt Temple, Moate, Co Westmeath, and Ivor and Colin Anderson from Corran, Derrylane, Killeshandra, Co Cavan.







Irish Charolais Cattle Society



Show & Sale of Charolais Bulls, Tullamore Mart, Co. Offaly, THIS Saturday 20th April 2019

- . Show 9.30 am / Sale 12.30 pm
 - 103 Bulls Catalogued
- · All Bulls are fertility tested and fertility insured
- All bulls are DNA sire verified and pre-sale inspected
- · Purchasers of the three highest priced bulls will each receive a voucher for 30 bags of Greenvale Animal Feeds

Dispersal Sale

Sale includes the dispersal of the Blanchefield Pedigree Charolais herd owned by Phillip Leech, Co. Wexford. This will comprise of 29 Females and 1 Male. It will commence directly following the Bull Sale at approximately 3.30 pm

Catalogues available at www.charolais.ie

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McCormick roll out revamped X5 Series of 'livestock tractors'

DEREK CASEY

A NEW generation of McCormick X5 Series tractors, now available from dealers throughout Ireland, features more transmission options for a wider choice of gear configurations.

It also offers new reduced-revs 40kph and pto speeds to help with fuel economy and a power-boosted braking system for improved performance with less effort as part of a generous level of standard equipment.

"The X5 Series is at the core of our 'livestock tractor' line-up and offers a lively and versatile power unit with a broad choice of specifications to suit different applications and preferences," says Adrian Winnett, Argo **Tractors Managing** Director for the UK and Ireland. "Together with a neat and well laid-out cab providing a comfortable and convenient working environment with good all-round visibility, the tractors make an attractive package for field and loader work."

The X5 Series replaces the Perkins-powered firstgeneration X5 design with three models powered by a 3.6 litre Deutz fourcylinder engine tuned for max outputs of 99hp (X5.35), 107hp (X5.45) and 113hp (X5.55). Apart from attractive power, torque and fuel economy credentials, the new engine has simpler emissions control hardware in the form of a diesel oxidation catalyst (DOC) which, unlike a diesel particulates filter (DPF), requires no fuel-burn cleansing, maintenance or operator

intervention.

Power and torque are channelled through an expanded selection of transmissions. Buyers can choose between a dryclutch synchro shuttle or wet-clutch power shuttle, a gear splitter or three-speed powershift, and from 12 to 36 forward speeds, with a creep gearbox option available across the board.

"The synchro shuttle 12x12 transmission with manual rear linkage control will suit anyone wanting a simple, reliable 'mechanical' tractor for yard work on a livestock farm and perhaps also for horticultural and fruit enterprises," says Winnett. "But there's also the option to upgrade to the power shuttle with adjustable drive take-up which, apart from giving fingertip forward/reverse selection, also brings electrohydraulic control of the pto clutch for progressive takeup of power to help protect implement drivelines."

Alternatively, there is a new 24x24 transmission with a splitter operated by a button on the gear selector that permits easy up and down-shifts to cope with changing loads on the tractor. This can be had

WITH A WELL LAID-OUT CAB, THEY MAKE AN ATTRACTIVE PACKAGE FOR FIELD AND LOADER WORK with the synchro shuttle or power shuttle, as well as a creep box that adds another eight speeds in both directions.

If more ratios are required to handle a lot of field work — mowing, tedding and raking grass for hay and silage, cultivations and harrowing, trailer and spreader work, for example — then the H-M-L option provides the added versatility of three-speed powershift to complement the power shuttle.

This increases the number of forward speeds to 36 with 12 in reverse — or 48x16 with the creep gearbox — for greater flexibility when finding the optimum speed for every job. In addition, the new Eco Forty feature reduces the engine revs once a 40kph cruising speed has been reached to save fuel and give the operator a quieter drive on lengthy transport runs.

The new four-speed pto option is another fuel-saving feature, this time for field work, as it provides both 540rpm and 1,000rpm shaft speeds at 'economy' as well as 'power' settings.

Other standard
equipment includes:
■interchangeable ball and
claw ends for the 4,500kg
rear linkage lift arms;
■a push-back telescopic

pick-up hitch; ■electronic control of the rear hitch in place of the mechanical system;

■an air suspension seat, tilt/telescopic steering wheel and air conditioning in the McCormick X5 Series cabin, larger tyres are being fitted for tractors sold in Ireland;

■a new power-boosted braking system.



Some of the factors that have the biggest effect on consumption are also the easiest to manage, writes **Derek Casey**

T IS worthwhile having an idea about the fuel requirements for some of the more power-hungry spring planting jobs such as ploughing and power harrowing that are now taking place.

As of this week, you will pay around €780 per thousand litres of agri diesel, including VAT. Whether you are a big contractor or a part-time farmer, you should have an idea of which spring planting jobs use the most fuel.

Ploughing, for example, uses on average 21 litres of diesel per hectare ploughed, depending on the soil type. At current fuel prices, this comes to a fuel cost per hectare ploughed of €16.40. Equally hard on the pocket is subsoiling, which uses up about 15 litres of diesel per hectare worked, so about €11.70 at current diesel prices.

Spring is always a good time to take stock of what your real fuel costs are and to plan to reduce unnecessary fuel use (see table on opposite page). Some of the variables that have the most considerable effect on fuel consumption are also the easiest to manage.

For example, tyre pressure selection is directly linked to excessive fuel consumption. Unnecessary use of counterweights is another fuel drain. And correct tractor and tillage system selection are two additional ways of managing fuel use.

Let's start with the choice of tractor. There are significant differences in fuel consumption rates between tractors, and data from the OECD tractor tests allow valid comparisons to be made.

For these tests, an individual tractor's fuel use is usually measured in something called grams per kilowatt hour (g/kWh).

Differences between tractor brands, except for tractors of similar or the same power levels, can be significant, so it is worth doing your homework the next time you are on the market for a new tractor.

Obviously, there are substan-

tial cost implications for those tractors with poorer g/kWh ratings. Teagasc research has shown that, overall, the choice of tractor could easily account for fuel cost differences of up to €8/ha.

As regards the tillage system used, there are a number of different cultivation systems with various combinations of depth, tillage intensity, inversion and timing of operations.

At one extreme is the ploughbased system with intensive secondary cultivation, while at the other is a direct drill system with a simple minimal disturbance disc coulter.

Minimum tillage

Minimum tillage establishment systems offer considerable scope for fuel saving as the shallower cultivation system requires much less energy input per hectare (it is estimated that min till systems have a primary cultivation energy requirement of approximately 37pc of that required by ploughing).

In addition, the overall fuel use of a min-till establishment system is just 50pc of that of conventional systems.

This can result in a fuel saving of between €12 and €15 per hectare, with additional depreciation and repair costs





John Deere aiming to crack crime with new PIN system

THERE'S been plenty of robberies in the news this week, with a spate of ATM thefts and stolen machinery unfortunately used along the way. There needs to be a clampdown on machinery theft in the first instance, and manufacturers are under pressure to come up with solutions to deter thieves.

John Deere is a firm that has taken its anti-theft systems up a notch in recent years. The firm is now offering a new PIN-code locking system (right) to help deter the theft of valuable GreenStar in-cab displays and StarFire satellite receivers from their tractors and machinery. The system makes it impossible to use the components if they are stolen

Because of their popular 'plug and play' design, John Deere displays and GPS receivers have also become more susceptible to theft compared to some other systems on the market. Until now, they could only be locked and protected mechanically.

The PIN code for the display and the receiver can be entered via the John Deere display. If the user forgets the code, they can continue working for a limited period, up to a maximum of 72 hours. After this, a Master Unlock Code is required, which can be easily generated in the online support portal.

Access

The customer's MyJohnDeere login grants access to any John Deere component previously registered in their account.

This latest security feature complements the range of precautions already introduced by John Deere this decade to deter thieves.

The company's agricultural tractors sold in the UK and Ireland, including the 6M, 6R, 7R, 8R and 9R Series models that are made in the company's main factories at Waterloo in the US and Mannheim



in Germany, are fitted as standard with the CESAR Datatag security system, as well as an immobiliser system whereby the key has a transponder unique to each individual tractor.

This means that while any other John Deere tractor key will still fit the door and ignition, the tractor won't start without the proper key.

John Deere was the first company to introduce the unique key system as standard on a full range of tractors in the UK and Ireland in 2011.

Other security-related items are also available from dealers, such as lockable fuel tank caps and separate door lock keys, as well as immobiliser systems from the John Deere-owned Vapormatic all-makes parts business.

In addition, all 7R, 8R and 9R Series tractors have JDLink telematics fitted as standard, with a one-year communications licence free of charge. This system includes the ability to "geofence" machines, so that SMS or email messages would be sent if the machine moved outside a predefined area. It also allows a 'curfew' to be set, which would again warn the owner if the machine was turned on during a pre-defined period.

accruing as well. Yields will be lower, but margin is often still higher.

Tyre selection has a huge role to play, especially in tillage farming. The importance of matching the tyres on your tractor to the work that it will be carrying out cannot be overstated. Tyres are the conduits through which mechanical power is passed to the ground. How efficient the delivery of that power is depends on the condition and inflation pressure of the tyre.

Despite popular opinion, Michelin tests have demonstrated that tyre over-inflation can lead to more of a fuel drain in field conditions, especially in tillage applications. Over-inflation leads to the tyre leaving a deeper 'footprint' in the field and more diesel is burnt in both the making of that footprint and in the tractor's attempt to pull out of a deeper rut than is necessary to maintain traction. The increased fuel consumption in this case is because of a bigger rolling resistance.

On the other hand, too low a tyre pressure is also a drain on diesel because the energy required to move the tractor and its load increases above and beyond what is required for good ground flotation practice. A balance must be reached. As a rule of thumb, modern tractor tyres should have between three

or four lugs on the ground.

On the rear tyre of a typical 180hp tractor, in order to have three or four lugs on the ground at any given time, the pressure should be just over one bar — or 17psi in old

Contractors and farmers should check tyre pressure once a week at all times of the year, but especially at this busy time in the fields.

If, for some reason, you anticipate your load will be changing significantly for a certain week (for example, if you are spreading slurry with a large tanker), then you can alter pressure as appropriate to suit the new load conditions.

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2014 New Holland T7.250





2010 Dieci 37-7



2001 John Deere 6210 c/w Quickie Loader



2015 Manitou MT732



2008 Kramer Allrad 342



2004 Case MXM140



2015 Manitou MLT629



2016 Volkswagen Amarok

TABLE 1: AVERAGE FUEL COSTS SPRING 2019 V 2018

Operation	Fuel use (litres/ha)	Fuel cost, (€/ha inc VAT)	Fuel cost, April 2018 (€/ha inc VAT)
Subsoiling	15	11.70	11.25
Ploughing	21	16.38	15.75
Heavy cultivation	13	10.14	9.75
Light cultivation	8	6.24	6.00
Rotary cultivation	13	10.14	9.75
Fertiliser spreading	3	2.34	2.25
Grain drilling	4	3.12	3.00
Rolling	4	3.12	3.00
Spraying	2	1.56	1.50

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Tuesday, April 16, 2019 Farming Independent





Fairyhouse Racecourse manager Peter Roe talks to Claire Fox about the challenges of deluges, droughts, unwanted intruders and combining his day job with part-time beef farming

▼rom waking up to the on Easter Sunday in 2010, to dealing with droughts and deluges, Fairyhouse Racecourse Manager and beef farmer Peter Roe has seen it all.

He says that nothing can prepare the organising team for what is thrown at them in preparation for the Irish Grand National, run on Easter Monday since 1870.

"We have tightened security in the last number of years. All we could do was cover the words with more grass when that happened in 2010. There's nothing like the stories that the Grand National provides. If you go down through the history books, there's great horses and families involved in it," the Roscrea born and bred man tells the Farming Independent.

Last Easter, Peter was crying out for a dry spell of weather to rescue his waterlogged race track ahead of Ireland's most prestigious steeplechase, which is over three miles long and includes 24 fences.

Fast forward 12 months

later and with the renowned words 'God F**k the National Hunt race less than Queen's prayed in weed a week away, the Tipperary killer on the course man is praying to the rain gods for a cloudburst to ensure his track is in perfect condition to hold a team of horses and their jockeys next Monday.

> "The snow last year lingered for a long time and it left the ground very cold and wet. All you can do is deal with the weather that is presented in front of you. This time last year, we had lots of rainfall, last Easter Tuesday we were waterlogged. This year, we are looking for rain, we need every bit of rain to get the ideal balance in the coming days," he says.

Drought

As a part-time beef farmer based outside Roscrea, Peter is well accustomed to battling with the elements on the farm, but his patience was well and truly tested last year as a race course manager when the sweltering drought drained out his track.

"The drought was a real challenge — we got water in there, but it took a lot of time. We used an irrigation

ring mains. We're hoping to change to an umbilical system, which would be a €200,000-€250,000 investment."

While grassland management is key to the proper operation of any livestock farm, Peter says it's also a roundthe-clock job for his course management staff made up of six permanent employees, with this number increasing to 12 in the run up to Easter Monday.

"It really is a team effort. We regularly apply a bag of CAN and do regular soil sampling. Unlike farmers, we're not trying to drive growth, but we want a strong root in the grass. It's mainly ryegrass that we have.

"We avoid clover like the plague. We want the grass to be tight and for there to be no slippage. I cannot bear clover. I've got dairy farmers trying to grow it beside me and I'm trying to kill it here," he laughs.

The staff don't reseed the grass, but instead "restitch patches as they go", and never race the same area of the course for two consecutive meetings in a row.

"It's an all-year thing. As soon as every fixture is over, forks are used to pull back the divots. Horses and jockeys aren't like golfers — they don't come back and fill in the grass. I'd love if they did.

"It's tedious, but it leads to the best results and the quicker you repair, the better. We use Wexford sand, but only use a little bit for as least interference as possible."

Peter says the ideal ground for Monday will be a cross between a cross country and a marathon road race track.

"You don't want it to be a bog, but you don't want horses running on a road either. You

WE AVOID CLOVER LIKE THE PLAGUE — I'VE DAIRY **FARMERS BESIDE ME TRYING TO GROW IT AND I AM TRYING TO KILL IT HERE**

want firmness, but also a bit of bounce. A nice matt of grass is ideal and you want it good to yielding.

"We cover a lot of ground, 33 pitches all the size of Croke Park, but instead of 70kg inter county players, we have half tonne horses on our grass," he adds.

Peter says, like farmers, his job as a racecourse manager means people often have expectations on him to deliver and that it can be hard to keep everybody happy, especially jockeys and trainers.

"Jockeys are under huge pressure to deliver results, trainers are always going to look for somebody to blame and the track is always an easy scapegoat, whether that's well deserved or not. Like agricultural people, we have to deal with a lot of expectations and appease people.'

Peter's late father Robert died last year and was a renowned member of the ICSA, having served as Tipperary county chair and honorary secretary.

Peter says that even in his father's final moments, he was asking him about the grass quality of the race track.

"This time last year, he was asking me about grass. He really understood the challenges of growing the right grass and keeping the grass on track."

Peter's 130km commute to Fairvhouse each day is the reality for the majority of beef farmers who need an off-farm job to remain viable. He says the current low beef price is leaving most drystock farmers despondent and in despair.

"I've only a few cattle, but the ituation is really depressing and it's very hard to get cattle moved. It's really frustrating to get them sold. Question marks have to be brought against the meat factories because farmers are very dejected," says Peter, whose wife Alison owns a successful millinery business at their home where they live with their three children Robert (14), Isabella (12) and Charlotte (9).

The University of Limerick graduate of Equine Science and former Gurteen student says he keeps a few "bad horses" and did placement at the Coolmore Stud in Kentucky and in the UK, but soon realised that management rather than training suited him better.

"There's a lot of stress around training. I got a job at Tipperary Racecourse as manager, which I loved, and when the opportunity came up to manage at Fairyhouse in 2010, I jumped at the chance.

"I'd love to breed an Irish National winner or a Cheltenham winner. That's everyone's dream. It's the best industry."



NE of the more complex aspects of a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) on farmland is compensation for severance (taking of land), injurious affection (damage to retained lands) and the provision of accommodation works.

Severance and injurious affection are so closely related that they are sometimes (incorrectly) treated by negotiators as a single item of devaluation.

Negotiators that do not assess and claim for severance and injurious affection separately are not doing their clients any favours. Acquiring authority negotiators are likely to strongly resist separate claims for these items but that should not deter the landowner's negotiator.

Compensation claims for severance, injurious affection and accommodation works should not be confused with that for permanent disturbance (which I will deal with in a later article).

Severance and injurious affection are separately assessed and expressed as percentage devaluations of all the retained property, regardless of the landowner's enterprise.

In contrast, a claim for permanent disturbance addresses the impact on the owner, and the enterprises on the holding, both at the time being and into the future.

Unfortunately, this confusion is a regular feature of both claims and offers.

Acquiring authority negotiators will regularly, and incorrectly, insist that the impacts of severance and injurious affection are limited to a few acres on either side of the new roadway.

Faced with an acquiring authority valuer, who insists on a restricted interpretation of the compensation rules and standards, landowners should not delay in applying for assessment or arbitration. where the rules and regulations will be properly applied.

Severance

Severance devaluation could be the single greatest component of a CPO compensation claim, if the Acquiring Authority does not provide reasonable scheme or accommodation works to mitigate the impact of the scheme on the entire holding.

Severance is technically defined as "the taking of an area from a holding". It can result in the splitting of a holding, leaving some land or buildings to one side.

It can also be at the boundary of a holding, in which case there may be no separation or sub-division of retained property, but there could still be a severe impact.

Whatever type of severance happens, there is always an impact on the value of the holding and, in the majority of cases, it will result in devaluation of all the retained property, not merely a few acres alongside the new roadway.

Severing accesses to retained land is a common problem, and can have a major impact on a holding, particularly on



When landowners need to play hardball on CPOs

Acquiring authorities' policy is to resist separate claims on key aspects of CPO compensation, writes Richard Collins

dairy farms. A few years ago, on the Cork-Dublin motorway, near Mitchelstown, land accesses were severed and the county council saw no difficulty forcing two farmers to move two large herds of cows in opposite directions along a narrow country roadway.

Until recent years, it was relatively easy to negotiate underpasses on severely severed holdings, particularly on dairy farms.

Acquiring authorities are now strongly resisting the provision of underpasses except in exceptional circumstances.

Underpasses or overpasses, should be discussed with the acquiring authority at an early stage, before the road design phase has been completed. In complex cases, a roads engineer should be engaged.

Severance regularly results in a complete change of routes to and from adjoining towns and villages which could be very disruptive for the entire family.

New detours and the closing of existing roads and rights of way are a frequent feature of road schemes.

Acquiring authority negotiators regularly invoke the long established 'Edwards Principle' to deny property owners their entitlement to compensation in some of these cases. While this is a perfectly valid principle, the ignoring of the equally valid 'McCarthy Rules', should not be tolerated by property owners.

The loss of mature trees, such as oak, ash and beech, can result in amenity loss, which is a valid basis for compensation.

It is obviously impractical to claim for replacement of a 200-year-old oak tree, but a semi-mature (say 20 to 25 years old) sapling can be transplanted from a nursery.

Betterment

In a limited number of situations, severance could give rise to 'Betterment' by opening up developable road frontage and creating access that would result in new development potential. Betterment is a complex phenomenon. Property owners should be on the watch out for acquiring authority negotiators unreasonably attempting to reduce the compensation by unjustifiably claiming "betterment".

Injurious affection

Injurious affection is technically defined as "the damage done to retained lands by the construction works and their subsequent user".

This can take one of a number of forms including additional flooding, damage to drainage, unbearable noise, visual impact, loss of shelter, etc. As in the case of severance, compensation for injurious affection should always be claimed separately and expressed as a percentage devaluation of the entire of the retained holding.

In the case of long-term drainage impacts, the acquiring authority will generally give a written commitment that the future drainage of the holding will be at least as good as it always had been prior to the road scheme.

This is an absolutely meaningless commitment. If there

drainage of the retained land at an early stage of the prowill be permanently damaged, the landowner should engage a drainage engineer to prepare his or her case at an early stage.

Acquiring authority solutions for noise and privacy impacts are the erection of timber noise barriers and the planting of quick-thorn hedging.

While road barriers may have a slight mitigation effect, they are ugly looking and fragile structures, and quick thorn hedges have no noise mitigating effect and will take several years to restore even a minimal level of privacy. In any event, these so-called solutions will, at best, only reduce the impact slightly below a legal tolerance level.

In summary, there is an entitlement to substantial compensation, in most cases, for the impact of injurious affection to the retained property and landowners should not be fooled by "sticking plaster" solutions proposed by an acquiring authority.

Scheme/accommodation works

Scheme works are constructed by the acquiring authority on the acquired CPO land.

Typical examples are cattle underpasses, boundary fencing and landscaping. They are part of the scheme structures, and landowners generally have to take what they get.

However, landowners should address these scheme works is a significant risk that the with the acquiring authority cess in the hope that their concerns get a reasonable hearing in good time, before the scheme design has been completed. Acquiring authorities may

offer to carry out works on retained lands with a view to mitigating undesirable impacts. These works are commonly

referred to as accommodation works and they are part of the negotiations.

The authority is not legally obliged to do any of these works, but if essential works are not done, the compensation should be correspondingly increased.

Equally, the landowner can refuse accommodation works offered by the acquiring authority if they are offered only with a view to saving money but are of little or no benefit to him or her.

Typical accommodation works are cattle holding pens, farm roadways, water facilities, planting, gates, etc.

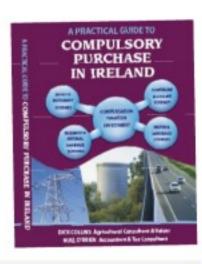
Accommodation should be negotiated at the same time as financial compensation, and a total package should either be agreed or costed and referred for assessment or arbitration. A written schedule of agreed works should be provided by the acquiring authority as part of any compensation proposals.

Roadway fencing and its maintenance are normally the responsibility of the authority and landowners are generally put in a situation that they have to take what they get. Landowners, in general, have a preference for concrete post and rail fencing, but in recent years such fencing will not be provided, on the grounds that, in the event of a road accident, concrete post and rail fencing will result in more severe injuries.

An assessor or arbitrator cannot make an order to compel an acquiring authority to carry out scheme or accommodation works, or erect concrete post and rail fencing.

However, he can order that the costs of essential works be paid to the landowner if he feels that it would be reasonable to do so.

Richard Collins is a consultant with FBA Consultants, based in Fermoy, Co Cork. He is the co-author with Noel O'Brien of A Practical Guide to Compulsory Purchase in Ireland. racollins@fba.ie or 025 31244



'FARMER'S MILKING OPERATION WRECKED BY SCHEME THAT COULD BECOME A NIGHTMARE BOTTLENECK'

THIS IS the story of a south Leinster dairy farmer who lost seven acres in a CPO and had a further 31 acres of his grazing platform cut off from his milking parlour and residence. In addition, his avenue entrance and several mature beech, oak and ash amenity trees were removed.

In summary, he was treated as follows: He was refused an underpass which could

- easily have been provided at reasonable cost. ■ He was offered derisory compensation.
- He was subjected to the assessment process and was awarded fair compensation, but the acquiring authority refused to pay.
- He offered to agree a compromise figure, in the interest of settlement, but the acquiring authority refused to even talk.
- He was then subjected to the arbitration process and awarded compensation which the acquiring authority unsuccessfully appealed to the High Court and in subsequent negotiations had to increase the compensation because of a flaw in the CPO.
- The acquiring authority demanded the farmer's three previous years' accounts and tax returns, the details of which were openly and publicly referred to at the arbitration hearing, which is a public forum.

The acquiring authority (and the taxpayer) are now responsible for all the substantial costs of several days at assessment, and arbitration, and High Court negotiations but are resisting payment by every means at their disposal.

Looked at from the outside, this farmer's dairying operation has been wrecked and his property severally devalued.

He was subjected, at considerable financial risk, to two compensation intermediary processes and a High Court appeal. In times of concern about data protection, the opening of his farm accounts and tax returns to the public was a most questionable action.

Apart from the property damage and disturbance to this landowner and his family, a side impact will be the problems for public traffic attempting to get to and from a busy local town, if the farmer needs to use the separated area to graze his dairy herd.

A scheme that will have cost millions could end up being a nightmare bottleneck.

Tuesday, April 16, 2019 Farming Independent 26



farming property



Jim O'Brien travelled to the heart of Kerry to walk a 110ac holding that has the makings of a fine stand-alone grazing farm

PAT GANN**Ø**N

KILMURRY, THOMASTOWN,

For Sale By Public Auction On Friday 10th May 2019 in the Club House Hotel, Kilkenny, at 3pm.

This is a lovely picturesque roadside holding, part of the Kilmurry Estate, all in permanent pasture, in a splendid location. The sale includes a nicely renovated gate lodge, and will be offered in lots as follows:

Lot 1, c.72 acres with Gate Lodge Lot 2. c.71½ acres of prime lands

Lot 3. Gate Lodge on c. 1/2 acre

Further details & maps available from Auctioneer. Solicitor: Len Roche, Kearney Roche McGuinn Solicitors, Kilkenny. Ph: 056 7722270

My hosts were Kerry footballing legend and auctioneer Tom Spillane along with CO. KILKENNY. his son Conor. They met me at the church in Fossa, c.72 Acre Residential Holding

a most unusual lantern-like structure where the panoramic window behind the altar overlooks Lough Leane, the largest of the lakes, and on to the mountains in the

AST week I took myself

south-west to the King-

dom of Kerry and a

beautiful farm at Beaufort

just outside Killarney, in

the shadow of the mighty

The non-residential hold-

ing extends to c110ac of level

dry land in a fertile vale

replete with fine farms and

some salubrious houses. The

holding is coming to auction

as an entire with a guide

Macgillycuddy Reeks.

background. A cloud was sitting on

price of €1.1m.

the top of Carrauntoohill as it loomed over us, while the mighty Gap of Dunloe opened up to another world, a kingdom beyond this one perhaps. As we drove along the immaculate country roads to our destination at Whitefields, Beaufort, the cut-stone walls and the leafy surrounds reminded me of Kildare horsey country with its manicured stud farms.

As we approached Beau-

fort the saffron and blue of the local football team fluttered from pole and gatepost in celebration of the club's victory in the All Ireland Club Junior championship. One is never far from football in the Kingdom.

We passed a 235ac golf course and farm that was sold during the boom for €12m and bought back by its original owners during the recession for €1.25m.

At a crossroads Tom showed me a 10ac field with double road frontage that sold for €1.5m during the Tiger years and was recently bought for €270,000, or over €27,000/ac.

We arrived at the farm adjacent to St Mary of the Angels residential care centre, off the N72, about 13km north-west of Killarnev and 12km south-east of Killorg-

The land stretched off in front of us in a series of level, dry grazing fields fenced with traditional hedgerow fences, some of which will need attention.

Conor Spillane, who walks many farms with his father, remarks on what a relief it is to walk land without having to climb.

Unlike the mountainous nature of much of the land in the county, this farm is on

a level plain looking up at the mountains. The ground is firm and dry underfoot, and while we wore wellies as a precaution Tom remarked that we could have walked it in our shoes. Indeed, we could have walked it in our slippers.

Woodland

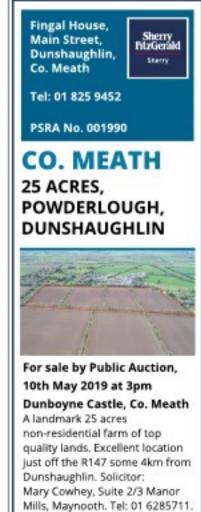
The 110ac has generous road frontage of up to 800m on to a country road at the rear of the holding, while the River Gaddagh bounds part of the farm, leaving 3ac separate from the rest with about 10ac in old woodland along the river bank.

Originally a family farm, the holding has been in its current ownership since the early 1960s and mainly let to local farmers for cattle and sheep grazing. According to Tom this is a strong farming area made up of progressive farmers, both drystock and

The holding has no buildings and is purely agricultural ground. It is an open book for any new owner with the makings of a fine stand-alone operation or a powerful addition to any existing enterprise.

It will be sold as an entire when it comes to auction at the Royal Hotel, Killarney at 3pm on Thursday, May 30.

The farm is located at Beaufort close to Killarney and the Macgillycuddy Reeks



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Marathon Wicklow sale achieves strong returns

AUCTIONEER Alan Kinsella earned his oats at the executor auction of a 76ac residential property at Knocknashamrogue near Tinahely in Co Wicklow. It made in the region of

The property was offered in six lots, and by the end of a marathon session five of the lots extending to 28.19ac, and including the house, were sold after auction for a total of around €264,000.

The larger 47ac parcel was bid to €100,000 and withdrawn. It sold the following day for a higher price.

The farm is 2.5km from the village Knockananna, 9km from Tinahely, 5km from Hacketstown and 16km from Aughrim.

Described as a mixed grazing farm with up to 28ac made up of good ground with 47ac of heavier ground in need of attention, the place is divided into a series of natural divisions by

a local road. The house is a three-bedroom, traditional farm residence built about 120 years ago.

The yard is made up of a series of old stone outbuildings with a round-roofed hayshed.

At auction the first lot comprising the farmhouse and farm buildings on just over 1ac was bid to €70,000 and held.

Combined

A second lot made up of 6.28ac piece was bid to €40,000, while a plot of 8.23ac was bid to €50,000. All three were withdrawn and sold after auction for a combined price of €187,000

A 1.4ac piece with laneway access was bid to €10,000 and sold for €12,000 after auction. A 11.28ac lot also with laneway access was bid to €50,000, withdrawn and sold after auction

Local bidders drive prime Kildare land to €17,700 per acre

JIM O'BRIEN

TWO pieces of ground in Kildare, one on the banks of the Liffey near Clane and another at the village of Kilshanroe near Carbury, sold at auction last week, making €550,000 and €272,000 respectively.

In per-acre terms, a price of €17,700/ac was paid for the Clane land with €13,600/ ac paid for the ground near Carbury.

The Clane ground extends to 31ac and has extensive frontage on to the Liffey. Located on the Naas side of the town just off the Naas road, the parcel has adequate road frontage affording good access to all the sections.

Under the direction of Phillip Byrne of Coonans Maynooth, this opened at €300,000, attracting the attentions of four bidders. While sluggish at the start it moved slowly to €430,000.

At that point a recess was called for consultations and when bidding resumed the price rose more swiftly until at €520,000 the place was put on the market.

With two local landowners battling it out, the hammer finally fell at €550,000, realising a handsome €17,700/ac.

ENFIELD LAND AUCTION

The second parcel is a 20ac holding in three fields at Ballynamullagh in the village of Kilshanroe between Carbury and Enfield.

Within the village limits the property has 250m of road frontage on to the R402 Enfield to Edenderry road giving it plenty of development potential.

The auction opened at €180,000, and with four bidders in the field the price rose to €240,000.

After a short consultation the auction continued until the place went on the market at €265,000.

A new bidder entered the fray at €270,000 but the original contender won the day with a final bid of €272,000, realising a per-acre price of €13,600.

PICTURE PERFECT IN TIPP FOR €800,000



THURLESBEG MANOR is a 27ac residential farm at Thurlesbeg, Boherlahan outside Cashel in Co Tipperary.

The holding, for sale by private treaty in a transaction handled by Maher Auctioneers, comes with a guide price of €800,000.

Originally part of a much bigger farm, the property is centred around a substantial farmhouse with five bedrooms.

Built about 10 years ago, the residence is finished to a high specification in a beautiful setting with lovely views of the countryside.

Outbuildings include a double garage adjacent to the house, while away from the residence the farmyard comprises a seven-bay slatted feeding shed with accommodation for about 120 cattle and an old milking parlour currently

used as a calf shed and for feed storage.

All the buildings, including a silage bay, are set on a

large concrete apron. The land is laid out in a series of well fenced and well minded fields.



SALES ROUND-UP

€11,000/AC SALE IN LIMERICK

A 28ac parcel of ground with no buildings or running water and shared right-of-way access at Ballingarry in Co Limerick made €11,000/ac at a recent auction.

Located off the public road at Ballyneale, Ballingarry, the holding is at the heart of Limerick dairy country. GVM's Tom Crosse described the three fields as top class in quality with a deep rich soil typical of the locality.

Bidding opened at €200,000 and with four active customers in action, within three minutes the amount on offer hit the €300,000 mark.

A recess was called and as the reserve price had been surpassed the land was put on the market. Three bids later the gavel fell at €315,000, or €11,000 per acre. The successful buyers are believed to be local farmers.

CAVAN FARM MAKES €170,000

Moving much further north to Co Cavan, Keenan auctioneers sold 21ac of ground at Drumgill,

2.5km from Kingscourt and 12km from Carrickmacross. The property sold after auction to a local woman with equestrian interests, making €170,000.

At auction there was one bid of €130,000, at which point the property was withdrawn and it sold after auction for €170,000.

WEXFORD HOLDING WITHDRAWN

Also last week a 112ac residential coastal farm at Lacken, Duncormick in Co Wexford was withdrawn from auction and is now under active negotiation. The holding has a two-storey farmhouse in need of considerable refurbishment and a yard with a mix of traditional and modern buildings.

Laid out in one block of 11 fields the place is under grass at the moment and has plenty of road frontage and coastal frontage.

It was modestly priced pre-auction at €7,500/ ac and while Colum Murphy of Kehoe auctioneers was hoping for a result on the day, he is confident the farm will sell in the near future.

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Lot 2: c.21.4 acres. Lot 3: c.34.3 acres Lot 4: c.16.5 acres

Lot 5: Entire

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'Hilly' Laois land soars to over €14,000 per acre

JIM O'BRIEN

LAOIS land did very well in the auction rooms last year and continues to command good prices.

A recent auction of a 23ac holding in my old stomping ground at Drummond, Rosenallis, yielded a decent return for auctioneer Matt Dunne. The mixture of grazing and forestry sold in lots before and during auction, making a total of around €250,000.

In an executor sale, Mr Dunne offered the property for sale in a series of lots that included an old semi-derelict farmhouse on 10ac of good grazing land, 11ac of forestry and a 2ac parcel of grazing.

Near the village of Rosenallis, the holding is between Mountmellick and Tullamore, about 8km off the N80 linking the two towns.

At auction, the 10ac parcel of land was first up, with Mr Dunne describing it as "hilly" with extensive frontage on to two roads. Four active bidders showed interest when bidding opened at €100,000. It quickly moved in increments of €2,500 to €122,500, where the auctioneer consulted with the vendors and it was agreed to put the property on the market.

Frantic bidding

After some frantic bidding, the hammer came down at €142,000, and while the place fell to an outsider from Carlow, it later transpired the man was acting on behalf of one of the neighbours. The pre-auction guide price stood at €120,000, so the vendors were very happy with the €14,200/ac achieved.

Next up was 11ac of broadleaf trees on arable land in a 20-year-old plantation of oak, pine, ash and cherry. Bidding for this lot opened at &45,000, rose to &50,000 and eventually the hammer dropped at &57,000 in favour of a local farmer. Again the guide exceeded reserve, this time by a modest &2,000, which greatly pleased the auctioneer.

The third lot, a 2ac field, described as "ideal for a house", was sold prior to auction to a local purchaser. It is believed the price paid exceeded the reserve of €48,000.

JIM O'BRIEN

WITH spring well under way and Brexit kicked down the road for another few months, auctioneers, vendors and buyers are beginning to shake off the winter in the hope that things are looking up.

Among the properties new to the market is a fine residential farm on 79ac near Rathnure in Wexford. With a guide price in excess of €1m, it is to be sold at auction in an executor sale.

Located at the foot of the Blackstairs Mountains, the holding is about 12km from Enniscorthy, 18km from New Ross and 20km from Bunclody.

The residence and yard are set back from the road and approached by a tree-lined avenue. Directly inside the main entrance is a derelict gate lodge with the potential to be renovated and perhaps used as guest accommodation.

The two-storey farmhouse with a rear extension is on an attractive elevated site. A traditional, solid farmstead, it is typical of properties once occupied by the wealthier 'working' farmer class.

The years have taken their toll on the place and it is now in need of refurbishment.

The accommodation includes a series of reception rooms and up to four bedrooms on a total floor area of 2,475 sq ft.

The farmyard comprises a series of dated buildings made up of old sheds and derelict outhouses, some of which could be converted for other purposes.



Traditional farmstead on quality ground in the heart of Wexford

Extending to 79ac, the land is primarily laid out in one block in a number of divisions.

According to Paddy Jordan of Jordan auctioneers, the ground is of very good quality, comprising 'Clonroche series' soils, recognised as some of the most productive.

Fenced with natural

boundaries and hedgerows throughout, the holding comes with good road frontage and is ideal for tillage or grazing.

The place will be offered for sale in a number of lots. These include a compact unit made up of the house and yard on 6.6ac guided at €250,000. The remaining land is divided

into three parcels guided at €11,000/ac. These include a 21.4ac portion, a 34.3ac piece and another extending to 16.47ac. The entire will also be put to auction.

The sale will take place at 3pm on Thursday, May 23, at the Brandon House Hotel, New Ross.



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Public Auction, Thursday, 16th May, 3pm, Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth, Co. Kildare



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Solicitor: Coughlan White & Partners, Moorefield Road, Newbridge, County Kildare. 045 433 332 Dunlavin 1 km, Naas 15 km, Dublin 1 hour

Public Auction, Thursday, 9th May, 3pm, Lawlors Hotel, Naas, Co. Kildare







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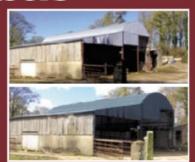
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How I dodged a one-way ticket to Siberia



IT WAS the old USSR, January 1985. Gorbachev, glasnost and perestroika had not yet melted their way into the frozen veins of this vast country. I was on a field trip with a party of students and staff from the Limerick School of Art and Design exploring some of the cultural wonders of Russia.

At that time, educational trips to the Soviet Union typically lasted 10 days, with five spent in Leningrad followed by five in Moscow.

Our pre-travel briefings were replete with lists of the dos and don'ts for Western visitors to the totalitarian super-state: 'Don't change money illegally. Don't buy gifts and souvenirs in local shops. Only buy in the tourism or Berioska shops as you will have to show receipts in hard western currency for goods you want to take out of the country.'

The most severe warnings were reserved for the sin of attempting to smuggle letters: 'Never, ever, agree to bring letters out to the West.' Of all transgressions, this was the most grave.

It was -35C when we landed in Leningrad. The

shuttle bus from the plane to the terminal building had icicles hanging from the ceiling. The border guards scrutinising our passports had icicles in their eyes.

Our party of young students quickly put the chilly airport reception behind them and lost no time in acclimatising themselves to their new situation.

Within hours, any initial apprehension was gone and with it, all heed of the warnings issued during the pre-trip briefings.

They became old hands at trading dollars and sterling for wads of roubles and, with the student nose for a good deal, found bargains in all kinds of places.

While our pre-briefing prepared us for many things, we were completely unprepared for the number of people with good English who, once they realised we were Westerners, would engage us in conversation. This happened regularly on the trains and the underground.

On our last day in Leningrad, a group of us spent the afternoon souvenir hunting. Towards evening, we took the underground back to our

hotel for our overnight trip to Moscow. We were scheduled to leave at 10pm.

On the metro, a man from Tashkent struck up conversation with us, telling us he had a girlfriend in Colorado. Speaking English reminded him of his beloved, who he missed very much. He disembarked with us at the station near our hotel and asked if one of us would take a gift to the West for his girlfriend. We all declined politely and told him it was impossible.

He followed us out to the street and begged that someone would meet him here at the station at 9pm and take the gift from him. For some reason that will always be a mystery to me, I agreed to return and meet him.

On the way to the hotel, my fellow travellers strongly advised me to forget about our friend from Tashkent.

However, I couldn't get the man out of my mind. In the silence of my hotel room, the thought of him pacing up and down scrutinising the crowd for my face became too much. I grabbed my coat, my woolly hat and my ski gloves and struck out for the metro station.

Before I knew it, I was mingling with crowds of late-shift commuters. After a few minutes, I spotted my friend from Tashkent and went towards him, smiling. To my surprise, he didn't smile back but passed me by staring straight ahead.

"Walk five paces behind me," he whispered loudly as he passed. I should've bolted at that point, but instead I turned and followed at what I thought were five paces.

"I have some gifts I want you to take," he whispered over his shoulder.

"Gifts," I whispered back, "I agreed to take a gift, not gifts."

With that, he did a 360 degree turn and walked past me again.

"There are gifts for you and your friends and for my girlfriend."

"Ok, I will take them," I said, hoping to shorten the ordeal.

"I also have a letter for my girlfriend."

That was the nuclear button. "No letter. No letter. No way. I'm not taking a letter."



I WAS CERTAIN **EVERY LADA THAT PASSED WAS LOADED** WITH KGB MEN

At this, he began to walk faster and further from the station. Suddenly, he ducked into an arched doorway leading to a courtyard and, like a fool, I followed. In the darkness of the archway, he glanced around furtively and handed me a canvas shopping

"You must take it," he said as he thrust it at me.

I took the bag.

"Thank you, my friend, thank you."

With that, he disappeared into the frozen Leningrad night and left me standing in a strange doorway, in a strange city holding a shopping bag, the contents of which had the potential to land me in a gulag.

On the way back to the hotel, I was certain every Lada that passed was loaded to the gunwales with burly KGB men, ready to bundle me into the boot and deposit me in a dank cell deep under the Ministry of Internal something or other.

By the time I got to my hotel, I was in a state of near collapse. I went straight to my room and proceeded to empty the contents of the bag from Tashkent on to the bed. There was brandy and wine — the gifts for me and my friends – a beautiful sable hat for the girlfriend, and the dreaded letter — my ticket to Siberia.

With less than an hour to spare before we left for Moscow, I hid the letter deep in my luggage, wrapped the sable hat in my jumpers and, taking the cork from the brandy bottle, drank a deep draft to settle my nerves. Suitably fortified, I joined the rest of my travelling companions.

After we settled in Moscow, the remainder of the trip proved relatively uneventful, that was until the night before we were to return to Ireland. The moment of reckoning had arrived — how was I to get the sable hat and the letter through the Iron Curtain without a sojourn behind barbed wire?

As I examined the beautiful piece of millinery, I was surprised to see that it was made in Finland. What is more, my trusty anorak, the one I brought with me from Ireland, was also made in Finland. Aha, I had myself a Finnish ensemble. The gift from Tashkent would make its great escape to the West on my head.

At Moscow Airport, under the eagle eyes of customs officials and border guards, I left the USSR with the sable headgear perched on the crown of my skull, like a pillbox on a pumpkin.

Thus ended my career as an international smuggler.

As for the hat, it was eventually sent to the woman in Colorado.

I wasn't sent to Siberia and the letter — well, that wasn't sent anywhere either.

I copied the address from the envelope and left the charred remains of the text wafting around a dustbin in a Moscow hotel room.

music with Eddie Rowley



Mary's living the dream

MARY DUFF has had a sterling career through four decades as a touring partner with Irish country superstar Daniel O'Donnell.

Mary (right) has just released a brand new album called *Turn Back* The Years.

This collection of country and easy listening songs includes Patsy Cline's 'A Poor Man's Roses', Billie Jo Spears' 'What

I've Got In Mind' and Leo Sayer's 'When I Need You'. It also features a standout duet with Daniel on

'Cryin' Time'. Mary said: "I used to look at old TV footage of stars like Patsy Cline at the Grand Ole Opry when I was

learning their songs, never thinking that one day I would be on that stage.

"With Daniel, I've gone to places I never dreamed of."

JOHN Rafferty, who recently emerged winner of TG4's Glór Tíre singing contest, is no stranger to the world of

The Belfast singer performed on *The Voice UK* and "I also sang for Simon Cowell on *Britain's Got Talent*, getting down to the last 200 people out of thousands". He has released two albums, Shake Of A Hand and Comfort Of Her Wings. With his new single, 'There Goes My Heart', John is hoping to capitalise on his Glór Tíre success.



with grand chance THE 'First Lady of Country' Susan

McCann has released a new song called 'Teach Your Children'. This unique version of the Crosby,

Stills & Nash hit features Susan's granddaughter, Sinead Heaney, sharing harmonies.

For Susan (left), recording with Sinead is a personal thrill after a glorious career spanning the decades.

"My grandchildren are a very important part of my life and I really value my time with them," she says.

"I missed a lot of time with my own children when they were growing up because I was so busy with my career as a singer on the road with a band, working six and seven nights a week.

"I had a young son and daughter and my husband, Dennis, was in the band with me. I was very lucky that I had my mum and dad for support, and we had a nanny that lived in for

"I used to dread my children growing up and saying, 'Oh, my mammy was never with me'. But that's not the way it happened and we have a great relationship today."

Susan hit the big time in 1977 when she released the single, 'Big Tom Is Still The King'. It stayed in the Irish Top 20 for 11 weeks.

By 1979, Susan had international appeal and she made her first appearance at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry. She also appeared at New York's Carnegie Hall.

Throughout her career, Susan has rubbed shoulders with country greats like Tammy Wynette, Crystal Gayle and Garth Brooks.

She continues to work at a much more relaxed pace these days and has been enjoying the success of her String Of Diamonds concerts around the country.

'Teach Your Children' is set to be another hit with the Irish female country legend's fans, and follows the success of 'The Old Man On The Porch'.



The Sitka Spruce that fall with apple trees'

MY WEEK MARK WILSON-PIERCE

IT'S a long way from Somerset to Clare and from sales and advertising to organic poultry farming, but the journey has been a fulfilling experience for Mark Wilson-Pierce.

The 61-year-old sold up his advertising business after he met his late wife Margot Wilson, who worked as a make-up artist with RTÉ on programmes such as 'Ballykissangel' in the 1990s and films including 'Braveheart'.

They met on the Greek island of Skyros — and Mark proposed within five days.

A few years later, in 2003 the couple were back in Ireland and soon buying the 33-acre Rathlir farm near Kilrush and raising their two daughters Siofra (now 13) and Phoebe (11) on what was a suckler enterprise with some 15 acres of forestry.

The first thing Mark

decided to do was to "green up" and go into organic farming on the meadow side of the farm.

He reared turkeys from August to Christmas each year for local markets, then ducks and more recently chickens, but the mainstay of the enterprise was the organic eggs, which are now sold under the Rathlir brand through Supervalu and other retail outlets throughout Clare, Limerick and Kerry.

The late calling to farming for a couple with no background whatsoever in the sector didn't faze them.

That's not to say Mark's time running the enterprise has not been without its bureaucratic headaches.

For instance Mark says:
"I have never had a Single
Farm Payment. I either
missed the closing dates or
other requirements when the
various CAPS were signed off



by the EU."

He was even tripped up by the form-filling bureaucracy

I HAVE NEVER
HAD A SINGLE
FARM PAYMENT –
I EITHER MISSED
THE CLOSING

DATES OR OTHER

REQUIREMENTS

demanded by Agricultural House when it came to his REPS application as an organic farmer, only to be saved by Trevor Sergeant — the Minister for Agriculture at the time, who spotted a little-known derogation within the CAP scheme which qualified the enterprise for assistance.

Grants aside, Mark kept calm and persevered, to the point where he was shortlisted for the main prize at the 2016 Bord Bia awards for their organic eggs – "the judges said ours were the best tasting" he says proudly.

Coming to Ireland was

always a personal and family decision which Mark has never regretted and his "greening plan" continues onwards and upwards.

His hens are producing 600 boxes of organic eggs per week, and his intention is to increase his laying flock over the next few years while also developing his organic chicken idea.

Poly-tunnels are also in the pipeline this year and Mark has already purchased his strawberry plants alongside other berries and herbs which will give him year-round harvests

Changes are also afoot in the 15 acres of forestry,

with the Sitka Spruce being gradually replaced by apple trees.

"I have nothing against Sitka Spruce but the area around these trees is pure desert," Mark says.

"I am replacing the ones that fall with apple trees, which is allowed, and eventually there will be orchards on the land."

Off-farm Mark spends his spare time writing and pens poetry and short stories with rural themes. He is currently penning a "fantasy novel".

Don't bet against him getting a publisher.

In conversation with Ken Whelan

BYGONES Images and headlines from our archives



A view of Fahan Pier on the shores of Lough Swilly, Co Donegal from the 1890s PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

Farming Independent from April 21, 1979



Dairy Council under fire over 'incredible bloomer'

THE NATIONAL Dairy Council was feeling the heat this week 40 years ago after publishing a leaflet advising consumers to eat margarine for breakfast.

"The National Dairy Council has done it again!" scoffed a Farming Independent report.

"This latest incredible bloomer occurs on an NDC leaflet on diet and nutrition which advised the consumer to eat half an ounce of butter at breakfast or alternatively half an ounce of margarine.

"In view of the cutthroat competition between butter and margarine manufacturers, the NDC recommendation will no doubt be greeted with amazement, and not a little hilarity, by Flora and the rest of the margarine lobby."

Farmers' leaders were far from amused.

IFA president Joe Rea said that Irish farmers had contributed over £1m in levies to the NDC for its promotional budget.

"This means that a farmer with 20 cows has, to date, paid over £200 for this work.

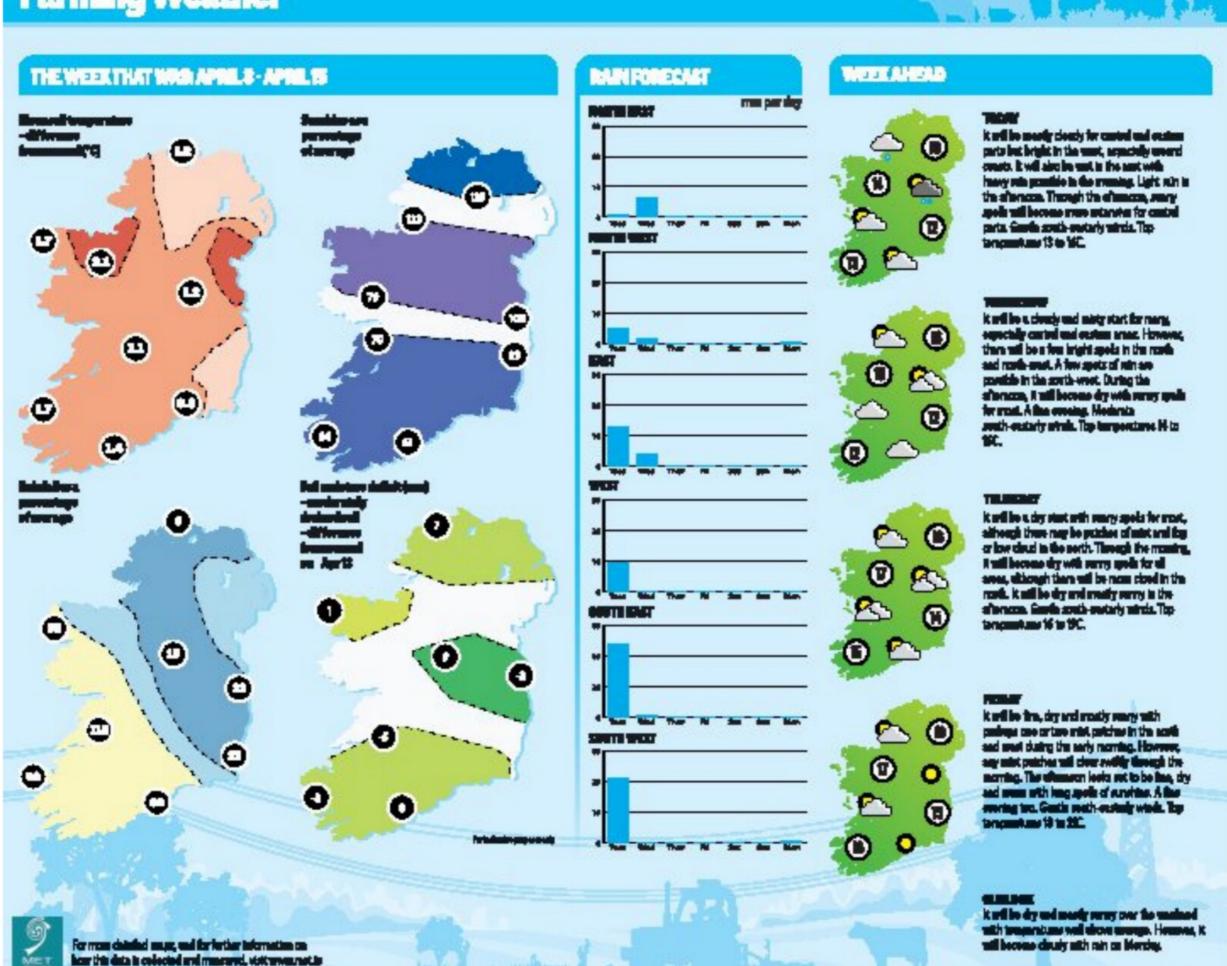
"This type of promotional work is important and has the support of farmers, but how well is it being researched?" he asked.

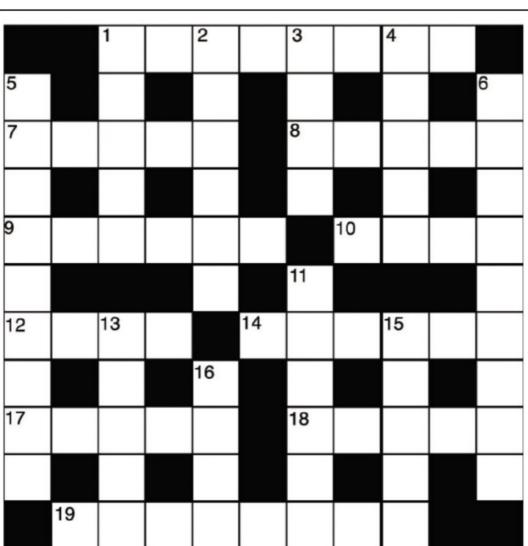






Farming Weather





ACROSS:

- Who will Munster face in their Heineken Champions Cup semi-final on Saturday?
- 7. Who is the manager of the Mayo Gaelic football team?
- 8. Chicken _____ Masala: Indian dish popular in the UK.
- 9. Which general was nicknamed "the Desert Fox"?
- 10. What kind of eagle is pictured on the seal of the US president?
- 12. Sheffield Wednesday FC are nicknamed the _____.
- 14. By what name was a 10p/two-shilling piece often known?
- 17. Property-based tax paid by businesses.
- $18. \ \ Who is co-headlining a concert with Bob Dylan in Kilkenny in July?$
- 19. Which Biblical city was destroyed along with Sodom?

DOWN:

- A forward pass or a knock on is penalised by a _____.
- 2. Substance used to curdle milk when making cheese.
- 3. Camera system used in security surveillance. (1,1,1,1)
- 4. "Connecting People" was a slogan of which company?
- 5. What was the Titanic's last port of call before it stopped at Cobh/ Queenstown?
- 6. Thomas _____: one of the seven signatories of the 1916 Proclamation.
- 11. Which part of the RTÉ website allows you to catch up on previously broadcast programmes?
- 13. "___ man write my epitaph", Robert Emmet. (3,2)
- 15. The area of long grass bordering the fairway on a golf course.
- 16. Which city would you visit in order to see Edvard Munch's painting The Scream?

Name	 	 	 	
Address	 	 	 	

 To receive offers and promotions from INM (see http://www.inm.ie/inmbrands/ for more details), please tick this box.

Please return completed coupon to "Farming Independent Crossword", Box No. 11, 27-32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1. Entry is free and the first correct solution opened will win the princely sum of €50.

All farming crossword entries must be received by Friday

Here's the winner of the farming crossword for April 09

Mossie Fitzgerald, Caherciveen, Co Kerry.

ANSWERS FOR APRIL 09

ACROSS: 1. Macavity. 7. Allen. 8. Goofy. 9. Eeyore. 10. Fern. 12. Fadó. 14. Norway. 17. Livid. 18. Canon. 19. Steinway.

DOWN: 1. Malay. 2. Cunard. 3. Vigo. 4. T-Bone. 5. Lagerfeld. 6. Pyongyang. 11. Moscow. 13. Divot. 15. Windy. 16. HDMI.





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Irish Independent W Reader Offers









Three-piece rose armchair bistro set

Only €89.99 Was €99.99 Originally €199.99

Our classic rose bistro set with two comfortable chairs is perfect for relaxing in the garden. Designed to recreate a classic wrought iron look, this bistro set is actually made from UV-stabilised PVC making it strong, rust proof, light and easy to move around your garden. Available in verdigris, pewter and antique bronze finishes.

Table measures: H66 x D67cm. Chair measures: H87 x W45 x L45cm. Maximum load weight: 100kg. Self-assembly required.

D7280 Bronze D7281 Verdigris **D9507** Pewter



Garden kneeler

Only **€24.99** Was **€**59.99

Put an end to damp, sore, grass-stained knees, and take the strain out of gardening with this two-in-one folding garden kneeler and seat, which is great to use while you are tending to your flowerbeds or tidying up lawn edges. It features a handy pouch with three pockets to keep garden tools to hand, and you can simply flip the kneeler over for comfortable seat on which you can either relax or continue to garden at a comfortable working height. The durable frame is constructed from high-quality steel and the kneeling pad has a deep layer of polypropylene foam for complete comfort. Measures H49 x W59 x L27cm when in use, and H12 x W59 x L27cm when

G0999 Garden kneeler



Wireless door chime kit

Only **€24.99** Was **€**44.99

This wireless digital doorbell kit can be fitted in just minutes. Complete with two receivers and one bell push, simply attach the bell push to your door and then place the receivers anywhere around your home to make sure you never miss the doorbell again. The receivers can be moved from room to room. The bell push can be stationed up to 60m from the receivers and its signal even transmits through walls and ceilings. Each receiver is powered by three x AA batteries (not supplied) and measures D12.5cm x H4.1cm. The weather resistant bell push measures L3.5 x W9.3 x H2.2cm and is powered using one long life 12V battery (supplied).

D9962 Wireless door chime kit

D1841 Pack of four AA Duracell batteries €4.99



Sauté pan with glass lid

Only **€49.99** Was **€89.99**

Perfect for family meals and one-pot cooking, this pan makes sautéing and frying meals so easy with its large 4.5-litre capacity and the nonstick ceramic interior that will not blister or peel. Made from inductioncompatible stainless steel in a mirror-polish finish to ensure durability. The clear glass lid included comes with a built-in steam vent that allows for your meal to be visible and stops pressure from building up, to guarantee efficient cooking every time. It is dishwasher safe and the non-stick coating allows for easy cleaning. The versatile pan is suitable for use in the oven (without the lid) and on all hob types including electric, gas, ceramic, glass, halogen and induction. Measures: diameter: 30cm (without handles). Pan depth: 6.5cm. Weighs: 1.9kg.

G3586 Sauté pan with glass lid

Irish Independent

shop

Garden



Welcome to the Independent Shop

We hope you will enjoy the great value products we have selected for you. There's a mix of home and outdoor wares, clothing and gadgets.

Our guarantee to you

All of our products carry a minimum 12 months guarantee with many offering an extended two year guarantee; look out for the logo. Unwanted products can be returned at your own cost within 30 days of delivery for a refund or exchange. Simply follow the returns process detailed within your delivery.

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see order form on page 7 Online visit www.independentshop.ie

Video

Many of our products have video footage available online giving you a first-hand experience of the product in use. Look out for the video logo:



We hope you enjoy shopping with us.



3.6V trimming shears with extension handle

Only **€49.99** Was **€**99.99

Style hedges and lawn edges with ease with these 3.6V cordless trimming shears by Garden Gear. Powered by a lithium-ion battery, the amazing hedge and edge trimming shears provides complete cordless freedom. The compact design is incredibly lightweight at just 0.8kg and comes with two interchangeable blades that provide up to 40 minutes of continuous operation on a full charge. The grass shear blade with an 80mm cutting width will make easy work of lawn edges, while the trimming blade will cut hedges, shrubs and bushes up to 8mm in diameter. Comes complete with installed lithium-ion battery, charger and two blade guards for safety.

These shears also come with an extension handle to help get to those harder to reach branches when using the hedge trimmer and helps to avoid bending and stooping when using the grass shears. Measures: L34 x W7.5 x H11.5cm.

G2378 Trimming shears with extension handle

D2939 Trimming shears without extension handle €39.99





Wall mounted metal rooster clock

Only **€29.99** Was **€**49.99

This elegant garden wall clock features a rooster perched on top and an attractive spiral-patterned bracket. It has a roman numeral face with black time hands. Simply mount to your preferred wall or fence using the sturdy built in mount (screws not supplied), and watch time pass while you are enjoying long lazy days in the garden. Constructed from powder-coated steel for durability, this clock makes a handy addition to any garden or conservatory.

G2625 Wall mounted metal rooster clock



400W lawn raker

Only €119.99 Was €179.99

Take the hard work out of raking your lawn with this powerful 400W lawn raker. This powerful yet lightweight device will put an end to the traditional heavy and laborious task of raking your lawn, providing an electric alternative that will remove moss and grass with ease, encouraging healthy grass growth with its innovative rake. You can select three working heights (0, 5 and 10mm) to suit your lawn requirements. Debris is then collected in the 20-litre collection bag for easy disposal. The garden raker has a 12-metre power cable, and is red to help with visibility when amongst shrubbery and long grass. Measures: L126 x W47.5 x H97cm. Weighs: 7kg.

G2351 Lawn raker



Battery-powered cat repeller

Only €19.99 Was €29.99

The Pest XT battery-powered cat repeller dissuades cats from areas where they cause a nuisance. Simple to install, the device's PIR motion sensor will emit an ultrasonic sound for five seconds. The cat will learn to associate the noise with its own movement, leading to a change in behaviour. It covers a 110-degree arc, up to 26ft (8m), giving a total unobstructed working area of 286 sq. ft. For more established garden guests, it can take 14-28 days to deliver the full deterrent effect. Occasional visitors will usually be deterred within a week. Measures H26 x W8cm. Requires three AA batteries (not

GO461 Battery-powered cat repeller D1841 Pack of four AA Duracell batteries €4.99



Set of three beehive planters

Only **€24.99** Was **€**69.99

These elegant beehive-shaped, bronze-effect planters will provide a striking focal point bringing a touch of style and grace to any garden, whilst setting off your plants to best effect. Ideal for use on patios, balconies and terraces. Manufactured from UV stabilised polyurethane, these planters are weather resistant, lightweight and maintenance free. Each pack contains: a small planter (H19 x D23.6cm), medium planter (H23 x D29cm) and a large planter (H28 x D35cm).

D6372 Set of three beehive planters

Three easy ways to order: P&P from €7.95 per order*



www.independentshop.ie

Garden

Irish Independent V

shop



Rotating kneeler and tool store

Only **€39.99** Was **€**59.99

Take the strain out of gardening with this 360-degree rotating garden seat and tool store by Garden Gear. The seat is great to use whilst weeding, tending to your flowerbeds or tidying up lawn edges. It features a handy tool store that can be used for keeping garden tools organised and close to hand whilst working. This versatile kneeler is the perfect garden gadget and will put an end to damp, sore, grass-stained knees and ensure maximum comfort whilst gardening. The durable

stained knees and ensure maximum comfort whilst gardening. The durable seat is constructed from high-quality plastic and supports a maximum weight of 80 kg. Measures: $L52 \times W31 \times H30 \text{cm}$.

G2201 Rotating kneeler and tool store



Telescopic ladders

From only €129.99

The innovative design of this lightweight aluminium telescopic ladder makes it a must for every home. It is ideal for a range of interior and exterior uses including roof and loft access, window cleaning, gutter clearing, painting and decorating.

To extend, simply pull out each rung and they lock securely into place. When collapsing, simply use the safe two handed release button and the soft close function will allow the ladder to fold down with ease. Conforms to European Safety Standard EN 131-6.

There are two options available. The 3.2m length ladder weighs 10.4kg and collapses down to measure L90 x W47 x D8cm. The 3.8m length ladder weighs just 13.4kg and collapses down to measure just L95 x W47 x D9cm. Maximum weight load is 150kg.

G0015 3.2m ladder €129.99 Was €189.99 Save €60 G0016 3.8m ladder €144.99 Was €214.99







Telescopic hedge trimmer

Only €124.99 Was €149.99 Originally €199.99

With your feet firmly and safely on the ground, this 800W telescopic hedge trimmer allows you to trim even the tallest of hedges without the need for a ladder. With a standard working height of 2.20 metres, simply extend the telescopic handle to extend your working height to an amazing 3.20 metres.

For complete control the angle of the hedge trimmer can be adjusted through 45 degrees and the reciprocating blade makes light work of the toughest of foliage. With a shoulder strap for comfortable operation at the longest extension, the hedge trimmer can easily be transformed to a shorter extension at the simple release of a catch. With a cutting length of 36cm, and weighing just 4.6kg, the hedge trimmer separates for easy storage when not in use.

Also available is a 24cm chainsaw head that transforms the hedge trimmer into a long reach chainsaw that slices through branches up to 10" in diameter at 6500rpm per minute. This product comes with a shoulder strap for comfortable operation at its longest extension, as in this position the weight distribution will be affected and feel heavier to operate.

D7305 Hedge trimmer
D7306 Chainsaw head €44.99
D7307 Replacement chain €14.99
D6546 Visor shield €19.99
D3741 Circuit breaker socket €13.99





Water jet adaptor

Only **€22.99** Was **€**34.99

This simple to fit, cost effective attachment quickly transforms your hosepipe into a highly effective jet washer. The durable, high quality design includes a stainless steel lance with a pressure adjusting tap and brass fittings.

This simple to use tool is ideal for cleaning cars, boats, patios, walls and decking. It can also be used to clear gutters, drains and leaves and is ideal for blasting weeds from between paving slabs and paths. Supplied with two brass head fittings that allow you to switch between high pressure direct spraying and wide spray options, with an additional extended flexible tip to gain access into hard to reach areas. Using the screw-on brush head you can cut down on time needed to remove tough dirt and stains by combining the higher pressure water with a brush in one. Measuring 77cm in length, the jet wash adaptor fits to your standard hose using a screw-in fitting with clip on attachment.

D9384 Water jet adaptor

2 (O1)695 O333 (Quote 91955)

Post (see page 7)

Independent Shop (91955)



Expanding Easy Hose

From only €22.99

The incredible kink-free Easy Hose is everything your standard garden hose isn't — super-strong, durable and ultra-lightweight, it will expand to more than three times its length in use before automatically contracting again in a matter of seconds. The cutting-edge design eliminates virtually all of the twists and tangles associated with standard garden hoses, and the universal fittings are compatible with all standard taps and hose attachments.

Comes complete with FREE eight pattern hand-held spray nozzle which allows you to choose from jet, full, vertical, shower, soaker, cone, flat and mist options.

Available in a choice of four expanded lengths to suit your garden size: 25ft, 50ft, 75ft and 100ft. Neatly store your Easy Hose next to your tap by adding a holder for just €12.99.

 D8462 25ft Easy Hose set
 €22.99
 Was €49.99
 Save €27

 D8463 50ft Easy Hose set
 €34.99
 Was €59.99
 Save €25

 D8464 75ft Easy Hose set
 €44.99
 Was €79.99
 Save €35

 D8465 100ft Easy Hose set
 €54.99
 Was €99.99
 Save €45

 D8466 Holder for Easy Hose set
 €12.99
 Was €19.99
 Save €7

Was €99.99 Save €45
Was €19.99 Save €7



Three-in-one blower, vacuum and shredder

Only **€54.99** Was **€**89.99

Remove, collect and shred unwanted leaf and garden debris with this powerful 3000W three-in-one blower, vacuum and shredder. Take the effort out of removing fallen leaves, and cut grass from gardens and pathways using this tool, with three functions including blowing, vacuuming and mulching. The powerful 3000W motor will turn 450 litres of garden debris into mulch that is ready for composting straight from the 45-litre collection bag, meaning no mess to sweep up.

The blower and vac is easy to use, featuring a simple switch to choose between functions and an on/off trigger located on the handle. You can also select the power level by using the minimum to maximum control switch. With a secure harness and mounting for ease of use, it also has two wheels with a bracket on the hose for extra stability, which distributes weight to allow longer use without fatigue. Measures: L34 x W14 x H12Ocm. Weighs: 3kg.

G2016 Three-in-one blower, vacuum and shredder

Electric weed burner

Only €39.99

Was €44.99 Originally €69.99

This weed burner is the ideal solution for controlling weeds. It's an excellent alternative to weed killer and much better for the environment, leaving your garden clear of weeds and remaining safe for children and pets to play in

It works by transmitting bursts of heat which result in the plant cells dying from root to tip, without the use of dangerous flames. Simply plug the 5m power cord into your mains supply and relax knowing that you're getting the job done safely and economically. There are two temperature settings – power setting one is the lower of the two at 80°C and should always be used to cool the machine down to ensure a longer lifetime. The second setting is the higher of the two at 600°C, this powerful setting is used for burning weeds. To effectively burn weeds, start at the edge of the area you wish to be cleared, keep the burner over the weeds for three seconds until you have covered the whole

It comes with a handy built-in retractable stand that locks into place when not in use, allowing you to stand the weed burner off the ground when hot, protecting it from getting damaged. The clever, compact design also features a removable handle to allow for easy storage whilst not in use. Measures: L101 x W8 x H10cm.

G2350 Electric weed burner





LED V-shape solar PIR light Z

ZENNOX

Only **€24.99** Was **€39.99**

Keep pathways, steps, gardens and alleyways visible at night with the help of this solar-powered LED V-shaped security wall light from Zennox. Perfect for increasing night time visibility for you and your guests, this light will also work as a deterrent to potential intruders. Operating with no overheads or running costs, instead taking its power from the integrated solar panel. The lights will automatically light up when motion is detected. During the day, the solar panel transfers solar power into the rechargeable battery. When the light is switched on it will automatically illuminate once motion is detected and stay on for approximately 20 seconds, it will then turn off until motion is detected again. The light features eight LEDs. Please note: How long the light lasts will depend on its location, weather conditions and the seasonal light available. Measures: L14 x W10 x H8cm. Weather resistant.

G2843 Solar PIR security light









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Health

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Two-in-one LED gooseneck daylight lamp

Only **€59.99** Was **€89.99**

Brighten up your home with this contemporary daylight lamp, which can be used as a floor lamp or desk lamp. The flicker-free light helps reduce eyestrain, making it the perfect light for reading or long periods of studying.

With a clearer, brighter light, it's great for hobbies such as needlework, model-making and painting, helping colours appear more true to life and improving contrast. The lamp has several great features and there are three different modes, a daylight white light (6000K), a soft orange light (3000K) and a darker orange light (4500K).

Each light mode has five brightness levels. The flexible gooseneck design allows you to position the light exactly where you need it. Base diameter: 20cm. Height: 74–166cm.

G3593 LED gooseneck daylight lamp



Lumbar support cushion

Only **€24.99** Was **€**49.99

Buy two for €39.99

Help ease back and lumbar pain with these fantastic cushions. Made using super-soft Sherpa fleece, the support fits to the shape of your back for tailor-made support and perfect seating comfort. Ideal for use on any chair or bed, the built-in lumbar section eases lower back pain and provides extra warmth and support for the kidney area. Measures H64 x W60 x D12cm at its widest points. Available in three great colours: cream, dark green or burgundy. Spot clean only.

D9936 Cream **D9937** Burgundy **D9938** Green







Lumbros back support belt

Only €39.99 Was €69.99

The world's leading professor in Spinal BioMechanics has developed BioFeedbac™ technology. Over 35 years of clinical research has resulted in the Lumbros posture correction belt – proven in clinical trials to correct poor posture, reduce back pain and prevent further back damage.

Using specially designed sensory pads either side of the spinal column, your back muscles are stimulated to be automatically corrected to their most natural position. So discreet it can be worn under clothing day or night and the unisex design makes it perfect for both men and women. Fits waist size from 22" up to 55". Measures six inches at deepest point.

D8646 Lumbros back support belt



Heat pad with fleece finish

Only €29.99 Was €49.99

Keep warm and cosy during the colder months with this heat pad from Stress Away. Featuring a fleece outer for ultimate comfort, simply place the heat pad underneath you for extra warmth. There is a choice of three heat settings on the simple-to-use control, making the perfect temperature easy to achieve and maintain, and saving

you money on heating bills. This heat pad is a great treat for anyone who is more sensitive to colder weather and will also help ease muscle aches and pains. There is an automatic switch off after 90 minutes of use to prevent overheating, and the pad will automatically shut off if there is a fault to ensure safety.

G2144 Heat pad with fleece finish



2 (O1)695 O333 (Quote 91955)



Irish Independent

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Shoes and clothing



Men's leather deck shoes

Only €39.99 Was €49.99

Constructed from top quality suede and leather, these superb deck shoes feature hand stitching, leather in-sock and a built in arch support. The flexible, hardwearing yet lightweight sole unit will provide comfort even on the longest walks.

Upper: leather/nubuck. Lining/sock: man-made/leather. Sole: man-made. Available in men's sizes 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.







Zipped convertible walking trousers

Only €19.99 Was €39.99

When you need the convenience of trousers and shorts on a walking trip. These loose fitting trousers feature an ingenious zipper so you can adapt them into comfortable action style shorts should temperatures rise. Featuring two button down thigh pockets and two deep hand pockets with additional secured zip. There are also two rear zipped pockets big enough to take a wallet or mobile phone. Machine washable. Construction: 65 per cent Polyester, 35 per cent cotton. Available in sizes: leg: 27", 29", 31" and waist: 32", 34", 36", 38", 40", 42", 44", 48".

C339ST Stone C339NY Navy

Pleated cotton chinos

Only €49.99

Brighten up your wardrobe with our popular range of men's pleated front chinos. Available in six seasonal colours, the chinos feature a concealed zip fly closure and include a French Bearer button to secure a neat and tidy fit that will carry you through the season in comfort and style. Slash pockets and twin back pockets with button and belt loop waistband. Made from hardwearing and lightweight 100 per cent cotton twill. Regular fit, machine washable.

Inside leg 27", 29", 31", 33". Waist sizes 32", 34", 36", 38", 40", 42", 44", 46", 48".















Men's canvas shoes

Only €19.99 Was €24.99

Buy two pairs for €36

These flexible canvas shoes will provide all-day comfort. Extremely lightweight, they are ideal for holidays and the warmer months ahead.

Incorporating a breathable canvas upper, the slip-on style has elasticated panels which provide ample stretch with every step, and the touchfasten style offers easy access and a wider fit.

Upper: canvas. Sole: manmade. Lining/sock: manmade.

Available in sizes: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.









Shoes and clothing

Irish Independent

shop



Leather shoes with leather soles

Only €59.99

Buy one pair get another free

All styles feature fine leather uppers and leather soles plus the soles are hand-stitched as well as glued - a unique feature not found in other shoes at this great price.

Buy any pair from this quality range of shoes and choose a second pair, any style, any colour, free of charge.

Sizes: 6, 7, 71/2, 8, 81/2, 9, 91/2, 10, 11, 12, 13.



part of the buy one get one free offer





Dr Keller Theo comfort shoe

Only **€24.99** Was **€**29.99

From the Dr Keller comfort range, this casual slip-on shoe has a double elastic side gore making putting them on easy and allowing no-fuss access. A canvas upper provides the right amount of comfort and breathability to get your feet through the warmer months. A durable flat PU sole completes the look and this winning Dr Keller style is available in two seasonal colours: blue and beige. The perfect accessory for the summer wardrobe. Sizes: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.

S196BG Beige S196BL Blue



Only **€29.99** Was **€**49.99

Our gentle-grip socks hold up gently without any discomfort or pain, so they won't leave unsightly marks, or pinch calves or ankles. Great for those with circulatory problems or swelling of the feet. Supplied in a pack of 12 assorted colours, they are made of 70 per cent cotton, 25 per cent polyester and five per cent elastane.

Ladies' socks fit sizes 4-8 and are available in pack option C259, containing three black, three navy, two purple, two pink, one purple stripe and one pink stripe.

Men's socks fit sizes 6-11 and are available in two pack options; C258A contains three black, three navy, three grey and three assorted stripe; C258B contains two black, two navy, two oatmeal, two red, two

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Set of three ABS suitcases

Only €159.99 Was €259.99

This set of three ABS premium suitcases from Globallite comprises a large and medium case, along with a small case that is the approved cabin size for hand luggage. The cases will conveniently nest inside each other for easy storage. Designed from ABS plastic which creates a hard-shell exterior so your belongings are less likely to be damaged in transit. Each case also features a three-digit combination lock.

With two internal compartments, one side of the case features internal packing straps to keep contents secured, and the other side is a zipped compartment, both have a quality lining to protect your belongings. It also features a telescopic handle and 360 degree quiet, rotating wheels for easy manoeuvrability.

Measures: large W51 x D31 x H77cm and weighs 3.97kg, medium W45 x D28 x H66.5cm and weighs 3.29kg and small W38 x D25 x H55cm and weighs 2.67kg.

Please note: We advise that you check with your chosen airline for their exact carry-on baggage size and weight restrictions before flying.

G3166 Black G3167 Silver G3168 Purple







Windproof umbrellas

Only €17.99 Was €24.99 Buy two for €32.99

Fed up of battling with your umbrella against the wind, only to be left frustrated, rain-soaked and with your umbrella inside out? Unlike conventional umbrellas, this innovative windproof umbrella has a vented design, allowing wind to pass through so that your umbrella retains its shape, even in the strongest gusts of wind.

With a strong and durable frame, the windproof umbrella features a comfortable rubberised handle, convenient shoulder strap and folds down to 40cm in length. The umbrella measures 98cm in diameter when open.















Wool-rich compression socks

Only €20 Was €40

Reducing the risk of deep vein thrombosis, these compression socks are a must for long journeys, during exercise, sitting for long periods, or for those at risk due to other conditions. Designed to apply pressure to the lower leg, they help to maintain blood flow whilst reducing discomfort and swelling. Available in black and supplied as a pack of two pairs. Material: 50 per cent wool, 30 per cent acrylic, 12 per cent nylon, 8 per cent elastane. Compression 13-15 MMHG. Sizes: Medium (shoe size 6.5-7.5), Large (shoe size 8-10.5), XLarge (shoe size 11-13).

C340 Compression socks twin pack



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D6447 Seiko desk edition crossword solver



Rechargeable foil shaver

Only **€24.99** Was **€**49.99

The twin flexing foils of this rechargeable shaver lift facial hair up to the blade for a close, comfortable shave. Suitable for wet or dry use, there's a trimmer for beards and side burns and a full eight-hour charge gives 35 minutes of use. To clean, simply remove the head, brush off any hairs and rinse under a tap. Supplied with UK two-pin shaver plug, cleaning brush and head guard.

D7946 Rechargeable foil shaver D9443 Replacement foil head €9.99

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